STARS LIVING / A3-1

Who's who, what's what at Ruffa's birthday party

METRO / A23

NBI agents withdraw support from chief, urge GMA to oust him

WORLD / A26

Israel seizes 9 Hamas Cabinet ministers, 51 other officials in West Bank

NEWS / A2

Extension likely for Masinloc buyer

Doctor brightens bleak world of kidney patients

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MARRIAGE OF MORE THAN A DECADE COLlapsed because of a failed kidney.

The woman, sick in bed most of time and needing a barrage of medication following a kidney transplant, lost her husband to another woman.

Not wanting to suffer a similar fate, another

DOCTOR/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, June 30, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 202 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Pinoy caregivers learn Spaniards very caring

By Armand N. Nocum

MADRID (VIA PLDT)—Spaniards are scheming, arrogant aristocrats who look down on Filipinos every chance they get. That's the Spanish colonial image straight out of the

PINOY/ A6

GMA men clash over PNP

CBCP backs bishop who filed impeach case vs GMA

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE CATHOLIC HIERARCHY yesterday dismissed criticism that Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez was engaging in partisan politics and said his impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo conformed with the Church prescription to end her crisis of legitimacy.

Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, spokesperson of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said Iñiguez's decision was "in consonance" with the CBCP pastoral statement issued in January.

"Bishop Iñiguez's decision to file an impeachment complaint was among the constitutional measures encouraged in the pastoral statement," Quitorio told the INQUIRER.

But whether the CBCP as a body supports the Iñiguez complaint will not be known until its plenary gathering on July 8-9, Quitorio said.

In the document titled "Renewing our Public Life through Moral Values," the 124-member CBCP called for a "relentless" pursuit of the truth about allegations that Ms Arroyo manipulated the 2004 elections, Quitorio said.

The statement said that the search should be done through "structures and processes mandated by law and our Con-

CBCP BACKS/ A19

THRILLA IN MANILA, Part II: The slugfest between every Filipino's idol and Mexican Oscar Larios on Sunday is now the talk of the town. A partnership between the Pacman's own MP Promotions and ABS-CBN, the fight itself does not worry Pacquiao. He's thinking ticket sales, he tells the INQUIRER during a press conference at the Discovery Suites in Pasig City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Pacquiao: Please come to my fight

By Recah Trinidad

MANNY PACQUIAO, THE FIGHTER, APpeared the least worried, unlike Manny Pacquiao, the promoter, who had to beg fans to please watch his slug-out live with Mexican Oscar Larios on Sunday.

"*Iba talaga 'yung madinig ninyo ang tunog ng suntok* (There's nothing like hearing the live thud of gloves)," Pacquiao said at the tail-end of yesterday's press conference for the July 2 "Mano a Mano" card at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I can hardly wait to feel Larios' punches (*Sabik na kong matikman suntok ni* Larios)" Pacquiao quipped in yesterday's fight press con.

"But please come and see me in action live," repeated the worried Pacman.

Pacquiao has called his $4-million bout with Larios on local soil a gift to his adoring countrymen.

However, the gift, a maiden collaboration

PACQUIAO/ A19

Lomibao, Puno support different police chiefs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CHANGING OF THE guard in the Philippine National Police has become a proxy fight between Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and the PNP's retiring chief, Director General Arturo Lomibao, according to a top Malacañang official.

Puno is reportedly backing Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, deputy chief for administration and the PNP's second in command, so he would have a key ally on top of the 115,000-strong police force, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Cabinet official did not have such support when he first served as interior secretary during the Estrada administration and Sen. Panfilo Lacson was then PNP chief, the source said.

On the other hand, Lomibao is reportedly pushing for Director Servando Hizon, chief of the Directorate for Comptrollership, so that he could continue to influence the service even when he assumes another government post after his retirement on July 5, the same official who's familiar with the matter, said.

Lomibao is widely rumored to be the next director of the National Bureau of Investigation.

A third prospect is Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., deputy chief for operations and currently the third highest police official.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita refused to comment on the proxy fight but issued a firm reminder to all contending parties: "It is still the President who shall have the final say on the issue. They should respect it and be able to work with each other."

In his press briefing on Wednesday, Er-

GMA MEN/ A12

2 justices hit Panganiban: A blow to SC credibility

By Leila B. Salaverria

AT LEAST TWO SUPREME COURT JUStices have criticized Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban for his remark that the tribunal had committed a "judicial error" in upholding the death sentence on rapist Leo Echegaray, saying it was a "self-inflicted blow" to the judiciary's credibility.

"The court will have to painstakingly rebuild its credibility from hereon, and pray that the same unfortunate incident will not happen again," Justice Antonio Carpio said in one of two letters to Panganiban.

Carpio also said Panganiban's statement that the court forgot the basic doctrine of proving what was alleged in the complaint "charge(s) your 14 learned colleagues in that court with gross ignorance of the law resulting in the wrongful death of the accused."

"On your part, it is a written and public admission of such a grave offense," he added.

In a separate letter, Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago said the Chief Justice's statement early this month "generated unpalatable comments on the individual justices and the court as an institution."

Carpio disagreed that the Supreme Court made a wrong decision because, as Panganiban had claimed, it was not proven that Echegaray was the father or stepfather of the victim, which would have been a qualifying circumstance that would justify a death sentence.

Instead, the Chief Justice said Echegaray should have been sentenced to *reclusion perpetua* (life imprisonment).

Carpio argued that the doctrines on qualifying circumstances for the imposition of the death penalty came after the Supreme Court had ruled on the case,

2 JUSTICES/ A10

5 bruises 'consistent' with rape, says doc

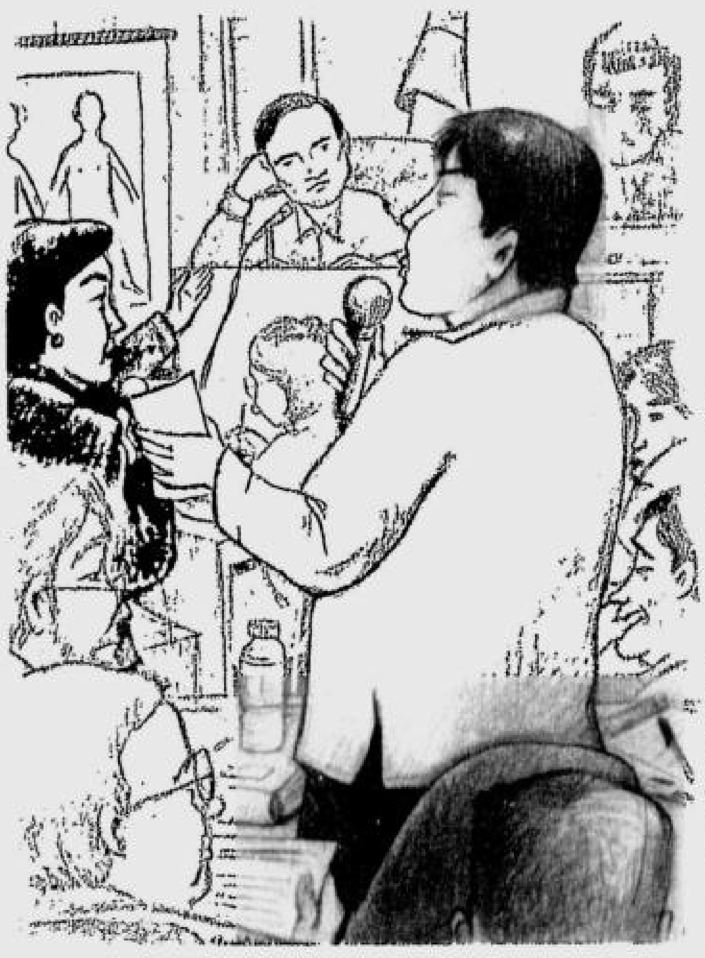
By Volt C. Contreras

BRUISES ON THE ARMS, LEGS and genital area of "Nicole" were consistent with her allegation that she was raped on the night of Nov. 1, 2005, a physician who examined her 33 hours after the alleged incident told the court yesterday.

The 18th witness in the Subic rape trial at the Makati Regional Trial Court, Dr. Rolando Ortiz II of the James Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City said he found five contusions on Nicole's limbs and another in her inner genitalia.

Prosecutors presented Ortiz to further prove that 22-year-old Nicole was forced to have sexual intercourse inside a moving van by a US Marine while three of his

5 BRUISES/ A19



18TH WITNESS, Dr. Orlando Ortiz II, testifies that his genital examination indicated "forcible entry of blunt object." STEPH BRAVO

Inquirer bags top 2 JVO prizes in investigative reporting

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER yesterday won the top two prizes in the investigative reporting category of the annual Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism (JVOAEJ).

An INQUIRER two-part series on the "Hello Garci" tapes, written by reporter Fe B. Zamora and desk editor Gerry Lirio, was adjudged the best investigative report published by a newspaper. Editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc was the project editor.

"Tracing the trail of the tape," which came out in September 2005, was also awarded the Marshall McLuhan Prize that entitles the lead writer to a travel-study grant to Canada. The special prize is given by the Canadian Embassy to the grand winner in the investigative report category.

Another INQUIRER two-part investigative story on the collapse of the College Assurance Plan (CAP), which was also published in September 2005, won second

INQUIRER/ A8

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TRACING the tale of the "Hello Garci" tapes wins first prize for Fe Zamora (right) and Gerry Lirio (not in photo). Business writers Daxim Lucas (left) and Elizabeth Sanchez get second prize. RYAN LIM

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over Western Visayas including Mindoro Provinces. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY KATE V PEDROSO PDI RESEARCH/06/29/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Extension likely for Masinloc buyer

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS JUSTIFIED GIVING a Malaysian conglomerate some slack in completing its $561.7 million offer for the Masinloc power plant at the behest of Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"From the point of view of the prime minister of another country, if they feel there is a bid won and there are delays in the conclusion of that deal then there would be intervention but not because it was an anomalous bid or it was a forced pressure on us," said Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

Badawi has reportedly sent a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo seeking help in facilitating the takeover by the Malaysian engineering firm Ranhill of its partners in the YNN Pacific Consortium.

Badawi's request

YNN Pacific won the bidding conducted by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) of the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired plant in December 2004 with a winning bid price of $561.7 million.

The President was inclined to act on Badawi's request apparently in gratitude for the Malaysian premier's key role as mediator in the peace negotiations with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

YNN was supposed to pay the 40 percent down payment of $227 million in December 2005 but appealed for an extension which the PSALM granted twice, extending the deadline to March 31 and then to June 30 this year.

Ranhill, which recently bought out its YNN Pacific partners for $8 million, said in a statement that it intended to complete the acquisition in the last three months of 2006.

Unfazed by case

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan has filed graft charges against several Cabinet members and PSALM officials for the "undue concessions" granted to YNN.

Bayan also claimed that Ranhill has made it a condition of the YNN takeover that the Manila Electric Co. sign a power supply contract for the power produced by Masinloc. In exchange, Meralco would allegedly be granted a power rate increase.

Defensor is unfazed by the court case which threatens to void the Masinloc deal. He said the YNN-Rainhill offer was worth saving because it was the best the government could get for Masinloc, the state-owned National Power Corp.'s biggest coal-fired plant.

"The big challenge for us is if we nullify, is there anyone from the private sector who can claim that they will bid higher than YNN?" Defensor asked.

But if Defensor is open to giving Ranhill-YNN more leeway to pony up the funds, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government would not give any more extensions.

Ermita said the government would be forced to bid out the Masinloc plant if Ranhill-YNN does not come up with the $227 million today.

Yet to be reviewed

"It appears the winner cannot make the conditions of the payment up to the end of this month. If they cannot do their undertaking, the award can very well be withdrawn under the procedure of the Masinloc bidding," he said.

Ermita also said the government has yet to review Ranhill's takeover of YNN Pacific, composed of Filipino firm YNN Holdings and Australia's Great Pacific Financial Group, which has further generated controversy on the privatization deal.

"We will review if Ranhill's entry in YNN was in compliance with the bidding rules," Ermita said.

RP safest in SE Asia from terror threat–Puno

By Norman Bordadora

INTERIOR SECRETARY Ronaldo Puno said yesterday the country could well be the safest place from terrorist threats in Southeast Asia.

Puno said unconfirmed reports of the presence of an international terrorist cell in the country were being adequately addressed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

"The Philippines remains the safest country in Southeast Asia insofar as terrorism is concerned. The increase in tourist arrivals in recent months has shown that even our foreign friends agree with this observation, otherwise, they won't be coming here in droves," Puno said.

"The public can rest assured that both the PNP and the AFP are on top of the situation," he added.

The police and military, Puno said, have been "working round the clock" to ensure that terrorist cells—whether al-Qaida, Jemaah Islamiyah or any other group—would fail in any part of the country, especially in Metro Manila.

Security systems OK

"Our security systems are in place and our intelligence network is functioning seamlessly to squarely address all possible threats … Intelligence reports show that this cell won't be able to operate freely," he said.

Puno said security measures that had long been put in place by the PNP, particularly in Metro Manila, had helped keep the public safe from terrorist attacks.

The interior secretary made the statement in the wake of a recent report that P300 million of the P1 billion allocated by the Arroyo administration for the war against the communist insurgency will be used by the PNP to fortify its police stations across the country.

Harden soft targets

Puno, concurrent chair of National Police Commission, had said part of the P300 million would be used "to harden soft targets" by deploying members of the elite police Special Action Force and regional mobile groups to areas where communist insurgents had focused their attacks on ill-equipped police stations.

He said there had been at least 15 cases of NPA attacks on police stations in various parts of the country that led to the death or kidnapping of policemen.

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We're not losing, says AFP chief

By Dona Pazzibugan

ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. GENEROSO Senga insists that the government is not losing the war against communist insurgents even though more soldiers than rebels have been killed in encounters during the first half of the year.

If anything, the New People's Army was not able to increase its forces because of incessant military operations, he said.

But Senga conceded that the AFP's intelligence could be better so rebel bases in the hinterlands can be pinpointed to prevent more ambushes.

"It does not mean that we are losing the battle. In fact, based on our order of battle the insurgency movement has not made any gains," Senga said yesterday.

"We will intensify our intelligence efforts. That's basic guerilla tactics," he said.

According to official casualty reports discussed at a security briefing the other day, the military's latest estimate of NPA strength is between 7,000 and 8,000.

Field commanders have reported that 104 soldiers have been killed in rebel encounters from January to June 27 this year. At least 87 rebels were killed during the same period.

Casualties on both sides went down during the second quarter compared to the previous quarter because there were less encounters, the report said.

"Let me make it clear that these are based on body count. In the battlefield, we cannot recover all the rebel casualties all the time," Senga said.

Body count refers to the bodies of killed rebels recovered from encounter sites. Rebels almost always take the bodies of their dead comrades with them when they retreat, according to the military.

Senga also stressed that many of the military casualties were non-combatant troops who were ambushed while on their way to medical and civic missions.

On June 16, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P1 billion to boost military and police operations against the insurgents.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. and Chief of Staff Mike Defensor said the President wanted the NPA defeated in "critical areas" within the next two years.

By the military's reckoning, however, the President has given the AFP four years, or up to the end of her term in 2010, to crush the 37-year-old communist insurgency.

SENGA

In Davao City last Wednesday, Senga declined to commit himself to the two-year timetable.

He said it was Defensor who mentioned the two-year deadline.

"But the directive of the President was for the insurgency problem solved within her term," Senga said.

"I think that is achievable and realistic," he told reporters in Davao.

Senga said the military has been using the P1 billion to acquire more military hardware.

"We are buying a lot of arms today," he said.

He said the military was also improving troop communication and mobility and enhancing skills through training programs.

But Senga said crushing the NPA would depend on the "united effort of all agencies in the government" and the community.

"The role of the (Armed Forces) is only to address the armed conflict," he said.

He said the underlying problems of poverty and lack of basic services were the things that breed insurgency.

"And that is now being addressed by the government," he said.

Senga said confronting the rebellion in the battlefield and in the hearts of the civilians was the "total approach being taken by the government."

With Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Salvage of sunken sulfuric acid sought

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD yesterday warned that the four tanks of liquid sulfuric acid aboard a barge that sank at the Keppel Shipyard in Batangas needed to be salvaged and disposed of because of the risk of explosion and other hazards.

The Billy Star sank on Saturday while moored at the shipyard. It was carrying 1,270 metric tons of sulfuric acid that the PCG described as a "highly corrosive" and "highly reactive" substance.

The barge was brought to the shipyard after it ran aground between Sibuyan Island and Romblon while en route to Manila on June 4.

PCG spokesperson Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme said in an interview that while there were no fish kills in the area where the barge sank, there was no guarantee the tanks were stable and uncontaminated.

"The sulfuric acid could react with water and cause an explosion," Coyme said.

The PCG noted in a statement that even before the barge sank, there had been reports of a leak.

It quoted findings by the barge's owners that based on samples collected, all four tanks were contaminated with salt water before the barge sank. This was believed to have occurred when it ran aground.

Based on the findings, experts recommended that the sulfuric acid be removed immediately, but this was not done because there was no safe place to store the cargo or an alternative vessel to take it in.

"The possibility of corrosion exists, which all the more raises the risk of explosion from the emission of hydrogen that could cause pressure build-up inside the tanks," the PCG said.

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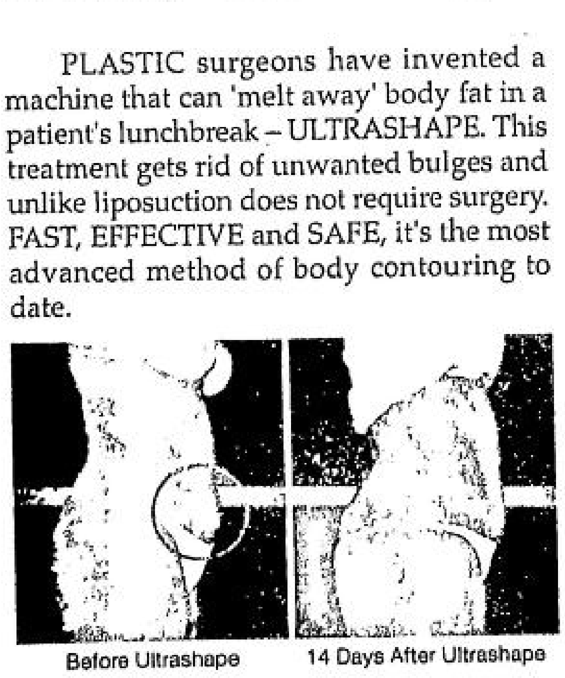
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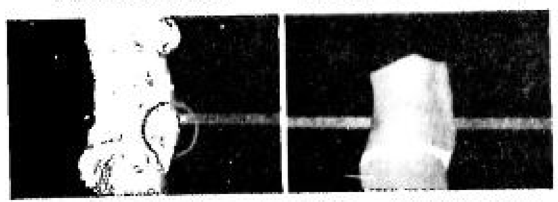
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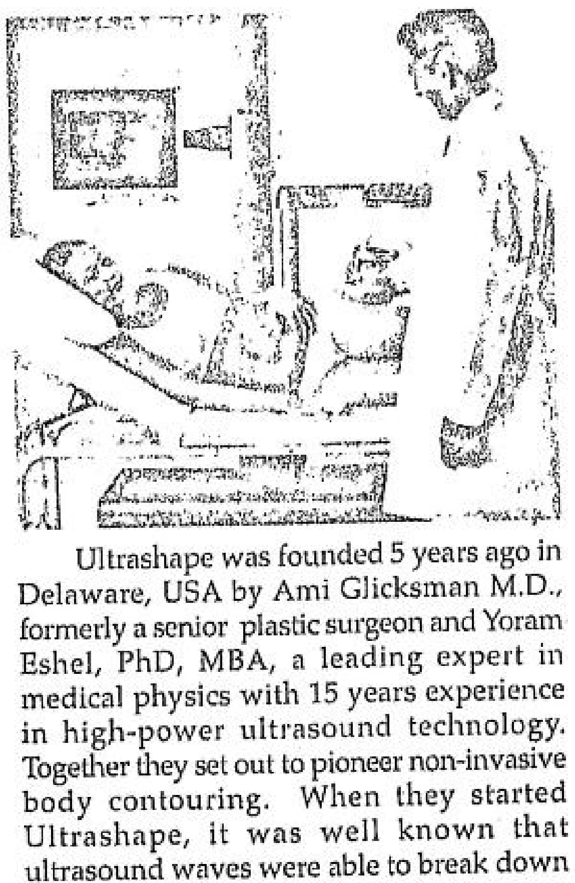

Ultrashape was founded 5 years ago in Delaware, USA by Ami Glicksman M.D., formerly a senior plastic surgeon and Yoram Eshel, PhD, MBA, a leading expert in medical physics with 15 years experience in high-power ultrasound technology. Together they set out to pioneer non-invasive body contouring. When they started Ultrashape, it was well known that ultrasound waves were able to break down and destroy fat cells, releasing the fat contained within them. Some forms of liposuction had already started experimenting with ultrasound probes to liquefy fats and make it easier to suck them out. Glicksman and Eshel built on that to come up with a unique concept of Ultrashape.

Using a focused ultrasound beam, Ultrashape destroys fat cells effectively in the stomach, thighs (saddlebags), lovehandles and buttocks. It works by focusing high frequency ultrasound waves from outside the body to targeted areas. These ultrasonic waves break down fat cells without damaging blood vessels or other tissues such as skin, muscle, bone and nerves. From there, the broken down cells are absorbed into the patient's white blood cells and are then eliminated from the body through natural processes.

According to Dr. Eshel, "The inherent safety of our method lies in the fact that we only do half the traditional job compared to liposuction and let nature do the rest." Physiological clearance of the fat tissue occurs over a period of 3 weeks following the procedure, similar to the way the body clears out damaged tissue found in a bruise.

Normally about 4 sessions are recommended to fully achieve one's ideal figure. Women and men who have tried it are excited about the fact that immediate results were seen already after just a single session.

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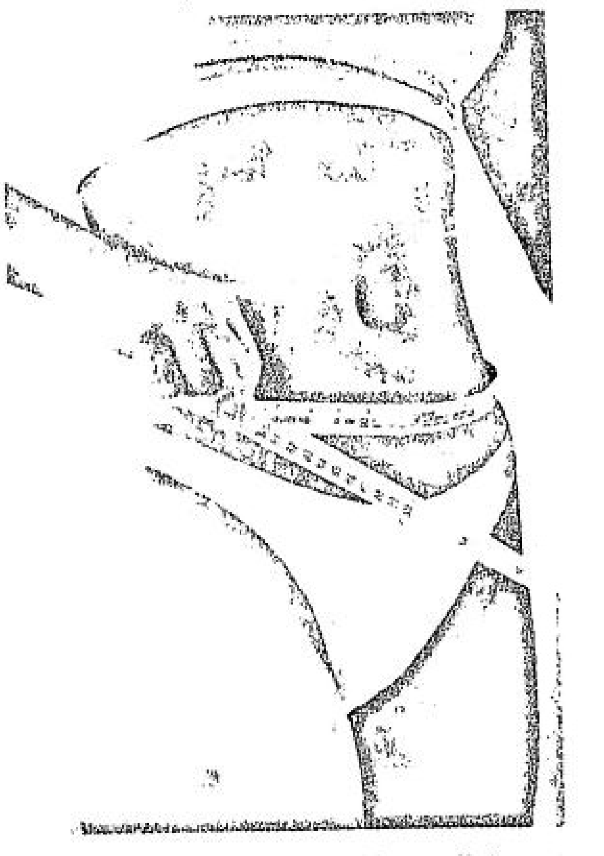

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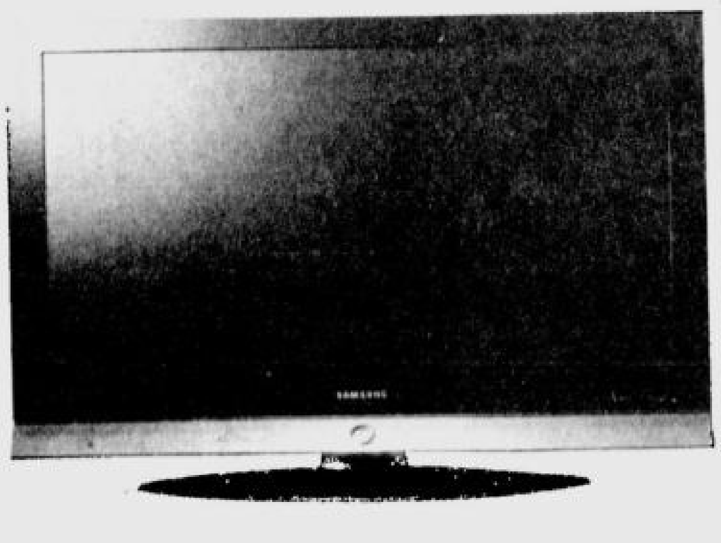

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GMA earns plaudits from Spanish officials …

By Armand N. Nocum

MADRID, SPAIN (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo continues to reap praise for her strong resolve in abolishing the death penalty amid opposition back home and for the way she was dealing with other domestic issues.

After her addresses before the Congreso de los Diputados (House of Deputies) and at the Ayuntamiento de Madrid (Madrid City Hall), the President was described as a strong-willed leader brave enough to make bold decisions and see them through.

"In behalf of the Spanish parliament, we publicly acknowledge your decision to abolish the death penalty in your country. We are delighted by it," said Manuel Marin, speaker of the parliament in his speech which was translated into English by an interpreter.

"I am moved by the fact that the Lady President who is beside me has a serious moral commitment to abolish the death penalty," he said, as Ms Arroyo looked relaxed and happy in a violet pantsuit.

"We greatly appreciate those people who keep their word," Marin said, adding: "We in the parliament have deep respect for how you are dealing with sensitive issues in your country."

At City Hall, Mayor Alberto Ruiz Gallardo said local officials here "celebrate your latest success when the Philippines abolished the death penalty, a brave measure that brings us even closer, if this were possible, as societies that have rejected this extreme measure of defending our freedoms."

In her speech before the parliament, President Arroyo said she was aware that the law the Philippines passed abolishing the death penalty was greatly valued in Spain. "I know that this piece of legislation is highly important in Spain."

In her address at City Hall, she said she abolished the death penalty because she wanted to "affirm life, a value affirmed by Spanish society."

Ms Arroyo also sought closer ties and cooperation between Spain and the Philippines as she thanked the Spaniards for helping the Filipinos in the areas of power generation, agrarian reform and health.

"Spain is the voice of the Philippines in Europe; we would like the Philippines to be the gateway of Spain in Asia," she told the Spanish legislators, eliciting applause.

… While FG 'becomes holier'

MADRID, SPAIN (VIA PLDT)—DON'T EXPECT to see a halo, but First Gentleman Mike Arroyo could come home on July 2 a more religious and forgiving person.

Interviewed during cocktails when President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the Ayuntamiento de Madrid (Madrid City Hall), Mr. Arroyo said they spent the two-day "President's time" in Santiago de Campostela near Bilbao, Spain, visiting the shrines of St. James and St. Ignatius of Loyola.

The President and her family flew to that part of Spain following her visit to the Vatican where she was received by Pope Benedict XVI.

"When you are there, you feel very holy. You are floating on air. The Pope first; after the Pope, Saint Ignatius, then Saint James, it will really make you feel holy. Until now we are still on a spiritual high," the First Gentleman said.

Asked what he prayed for at the holy sites, he replied: "I prayed for you all."

And his critics?

"I also prayed for all of them."

Has the trip made him more forgiving? He replied that he had always been forgiving.

Apart from prayers, he said they and "some friends" also engaged in a "food trip."

But the President, who came down with acute diarrhea before she left for Rome, was not able to enjoy the gastronomic delights.

"The doctor accompanying us said she could not eat certain foods so I ate them for her," he said, grinning. *Armand N. Nocum*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 8
Series of 2006

To : ALL CONCERNED
Re : REVISED GUIDELINES ON FOUNDATIONS

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise, known as the Securities Regulation Code, in relation to Presidential Decree No. 902-A, declares the need to empower the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") to protect not only the investors but the public as well, pursuant to the government's policy of promoting the equitable distribution of wealth.

WHEREAS, many of the foundations registered with the Commission have been observed to focus mainly on the fund-raising aspect of their projects.

WHEREAS, it is essential that the funds generated by the foundations are utilized in accordance with the purposes stated in their Articles of Incorporation;

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, SEC Memorandum Circular No. 01-04 dated January 20, 2004 is hereby revised and the following guidelines in the registration and monitoring of foundations are hereby adopted:

Section 1. A "Foundation" is a non-stock, non-profit corporation established for the purpose of extending grants or endowments to support its goals or raising funds to accomplish charitable, religious, educational, athletic, cultural, literary, scientific, social welfare or other similar objectives.

Section 2. A Foundation applying for registration with the Commission shall, in addition to the requirements for non-stock, non-profit corporations, submit the following documents:

a. Notarized Certification of Bank Deposit of the amount of not less than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00); and
b. Statement of willingness to allow the Commission to conduct an audit.

Section 3. The applicant's corporate name shall contain the word "Foundation".

Section 4. Upon the effectivity of this Circular, all registered Foundations shall submit, in addition to the General Information Sheet, its Audited Financial Statement which shall include a sworn Statement of its President and Treasurer on the following information that relates to the preceding fiscal year:

a. Source and Amount of Funds;
b. Program/Activity planned, ongoing and accomplished;
    i. Complete name, address and contact number of project officer-in-charge;
    ii. Complete address and contact number of project office; and
c. Application of Funds.

Section 5. A registered Foundation shall attach to the sworn statement mentioned in the immediately preceding paragraph a Certification from the Office of the Mayor, or the Office of the Barangay Captain, or the Head of either the Department of Social Welfare and Development or Department of Health, on the existence of the subject Program/Activity in the locality on which it exercises jurisdiction.

Section 6. In case a registered Foundation has not yet submitted to the Commission a statement of willingness to allow the conduct of an audit, it shall attach such statement when it submits the documents required in Sections 4 and 5.

Section 7. For purposes of the audit to be conducted, a registered Foundation shall allow the Commission's representatives access to its corporate and accounting books, records, names of beneficiaries, agreements entered into, correspondences and all pertinent documents for the preceding five (5) years.

Section 8. All funds of the Foundation shall be deposited in a banking institution regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Section 9. Failure to comply with any of these rules or any violation of the provisions hereof shall render the Foundation liable to pay a fine in an amount that shall be determined by the Commission which shall not be less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00). In case the Foundation fails to submit the required documents for two (2) consecutive years, the Commission may, after due notice and hearing, revoke the registration of the Foundation. The penalties enumerated herein shall be without prejudice to whatever other legal action may be available under existing laws.

Section 10. All other circulars, rules, orders, and issuances, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 11. These Revised Guidelines shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

June 22, 2006.

(Sgd.) FE B. BARIN
Chairperson

(PDI-June 30, 2006)

Reds, police hound Gringo

FUGITIVE FORMER SENATOR AND COLONEL Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, it appears, is wanted on both sides of the ideological divide.

Yesterday, some two dozen communist rebels, wearing military uniforms, killed two workers in an attack on a farm in Masbate reportedly owned by the opposition personality who was linked to an alleged coup plot in February, police said.

Eugenio Alcovindas, Masbate police chief, said weapons were also seized by New People's Army rebels during the raid on the farm.

Last Tuesday, meanwhile, police raided a farm in Iloilo province where Honasan was reportedly sighted, another police official disclosed yesterday.

But the elusive Honasan, who carries a P5-million bounty on his head, was not around, said Supt. Benjamin de los Santos of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Policemen from Region VI-CIDG, the provincial mobile group and the local station stormed the farm owned by a Zenaida Cuachon in Barangay Balantian, Balasan town, at around 10 a.m. on June 27.

"(The raid was) based on intelligence reports that Honasan was using the farm as one of his hideouts. [But] the operation proved negative," De los Santos said.

Honasan, a hero of the 1986 People Power revolt that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has been on the run since he was accused of masterminding an alleged plot by rogue troops, conspiring with communist rebels, to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo last Feb. 24, ironically the 20th anniversary of Marcos's ouster.

"We've sent a team of police officers to investigate and beef up security around the [Masbate] farm," Alcovindas said, adding that police were looking into a labor dispute at the farm as a possible motive for the attack.

"We heard rumors that the farm managers wanted to kick out 300 tenants from the plantation," he said.

In Iloilo, De los Santos said, "He was sighted there, but we didn't get him. He's good. He has access to fast sea and air craft."

Honasan and some junior military officers are also facing coup d'etat charges in connection with the 2003 Oakwood mutiny in Makati City.

Earlier, police and military operatives arrested retired Colonels Romeo Lazo and Virgilio Briones and retired businessman Ernesto Macahiya, alleged supporters of Honasan in the Philippine Guardians Brother Inc. *Luige A. del Puerto, Reuters*

Moro rebs take Army outpost

MORO REBELS SEIZED AN ARMY OUTPOST in Maguindanao yesterday as fighting erupted between guerrillas and troops hunting suspects in a bomb attack last week.

Malaysian ceasefire monitors rushed to prevent hostilities from escalating and affecting peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest Muslim separatist group in the country.

Security and rebel forces blamed each other for starting the battle in villages around Shariff Aguak town, where seven people were killed on Friday by a bomb intended for the powerful governor of Maguindanao province, Andal Ampatuan.

"Our forces were just defending themselves from heavy mortar shelling since Wednesday night," Eid Kabalu, a spokesperson for the MILF, said by phone from Mindanao. "We did not start the fight. We're now holding our own line."

Kabalu said the MILF attacked and seized an outpost manned by paramilitary forces to stop the shelling of Muslim villages near a sprawling marshland.

"Based on reports we're getting from the field, our forces had killed or wounded about 20 members of a local paramilitary force," Kabalu said, adding the MILF would give up the outpost if government forces stopped shelling rebel positions.

Lumala Gunting, police chief of Maguindanao province, said it was the MILF that provoked the hostilities when rebels ambushed a team of security forces on its way to serve arrest warrants against guerrillas suspected in the attacks on June 23. *Reuters*

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Pinoy caregivers learn Spaniards very caring

From page A1

novels of the national hero, Jose Rizal, that had been seared into the consciousness of the average Filipino. After all, there were wholesale abuses by the conquistadores.

That was then. Today's Filipinos are re-discovering the Spaniards as a lovable people. Take the Filipino caregivers sent here to open up the unexplored field of caregiving. They praise the Spanish people as genteel, polite, hospitable, friendly and laid back.

"They are hospitable and generous ... maybe we got our world-famous trait of being hospitable from them," said Cristina Canuelo of Mandaluyong, who was among the first batch of 40 out of 100,000 Filipinos to be sent here.

Canuelo, who works at the Los Nogales Nursing Homes here said: "This is really a blessing for us." She giggled as she posed for a picture with Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

The outgoing labor secretary worked to "open up" Spain's health care market, which would need one million caregivers in five years.

In an interview at the Los Nogales Nursing Homes, Sto. Tomas said Filipino caregivers and other skilled OFWs were unable to penetrate the Spanish market because of strict immigration rules and the inability of most Filipinos to speak the Spanish language.

Domestic helpers only

Although Spain has some 40,000 Filipino workers, they are mostly hired as domestic helpers by their respective employers with little or no government involvement.

But the memorandum of undertaking to be signed by Sto. Tomas with her Spanish counterpart provides for highly skilled Filipinos to work here in large numbers following the easing of immigration restrictions.

Pioneering 40

Addressing the 40 caregivers who arrived here beginning the middle of June, Sto. Tomas advised them to show the best of Filipino skills and caregiving abilities to ensure that the "pilot project" started by the 40 OFWs would succeed and lead to the entry of more Filipinos.

Pascual Berlanga, owner of the Los Nogales Nursing Homes and who employs some of the caregivers, told them in Spanish: "We need a lot of people to take care of the elderly people. The opportunity to work in the health care industry is rich for you and us."

Sto. Tomas cautioned the caregivers about the onset of homesickness that may hit them in a month or so.

Joey Dugay of Tarlac, who arrived here on June 15, was confident the kindness of the people here would see him through.

"They are very kind to us ... more so if we tell them that they had been our colonizers for 400 years and we had imbibed their culture, traits, religion," he said. "They really shake their heads with amazement when we tell them this."

Like home

Dugay, who works at the Residencia Pacifico nursing homes, said he felt "like home here" due to the many similarities in the Spanish and Filipino cultures.

"I will adapt here very well. They go out of their way to assist us in many ways," he said of his employers who gave them cellular phones on top of their salaries of about 1,400 euros (roughly P99,400) a month.

Rena Rosario Martinez Medallo, who hails from the Chavacano-speaking Zamboanga City, loves this place so much that she has already started working on her papers to avail herself of the privilege allowing her family of four to come to Spain in two year's time.

"This is just like Zamboanga City," she said.

PRIVATE TIME well spent for President Arroyo who visited one of the world's architectural wonders, the Guggenheim Bilbao museum on Wednesday. She was toured by museum director Juan Antonio Vidarte.

AFP

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June 30, 2006

PHILIPPINE-SPANISH FRIENDSHIP DAY

Message

Warmest greetings to the officials and people of Zamboanga City as you spearhead the observance of this year's Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day. The Philippines and Spain have a closely intertwined culture and history and this annual celebration honors the deep fraternal ties between the Filipino and Spanish people.

The Philippines and Spain enjoy a strong, vibrant relationship in trade, business, investment and tourism as evidenced by about $160 million worth of consumer goods, electronics and food products, among many other goods, exchanged in 2005 alone. We have also embarked on various socio-economic projects that signify our continuing collaboration for the benifit of our peoples and my visit to Spain later this month attests to the enduring friendship of our countries based on shared aspiration for liberty, justice and democratic values.

Thus, I appreciate the efforts of Zamboanga City to make this commemoration truly relevant and meaningful.

May we build on the foundation of our long-standing friendship and our mutually beneficial relation to fight poverty for a better world.

More power and Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

Mensaje

Queridos amigos de Zamboanga

We celebrate June 30 as Friendship Day between Spain and Philippines.

This year, this special commemoration will be held in the beautiful City of Zamboanga known as "la muy noble y leal" because it was the last capital of Spain in the Philippines.

I wish you a very successful celebration with your excellent Mayor, Celso Lobregat and his team.

Quiere yo rindi las gracias con aquellos gente de Zamboanga, gente bueno y alegre.

Mabuhay! Viva España

HIS EXCELLENCY IGNACIO SAGAZ
Ambassador of Spain

Message

Today, we commemorate the more than four centuries of Philippine-Spanish ties as we celebrate Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day

This year, Zamboanga City has been chosen as the venue for the main celebration of the event. We are indeed proud to host and celebrate the Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day since Spain has greatly influenced the history and culture of Zamboanga City, and our language - Chabacano.

As we move further to strengthen the ties and friendship between these two great countries, we shout:

Viva Pilipinas!
Viva España!
Adelante Zamboanga!

HON. CELSO LORENZO LOBREGAT
Mayor of Zamboanga City

EVENTS

Spanish Film Festival
June 24
9.00 AM - 12:00 NN
Cinema 2, Mindpro Citymall
Zamboanga City

Mural/Photo Exhibit of Zamboanga City's History
June 24 – July 02
4:00 PM – FORMAL OPENING
8.00 AM – 5:00 PM (exhibit time)
National Museum, Zamboanga City

Launching and ceremonial turnover of Agencia Español Cooperacion International projects
June 29
9:00 AM
Don Pablo Lorenzo Memorial High School
Zamboanga City

Commemorative Program
June 30
8:00 AM
Courtyard, National Museum
Zamboanga City

Zamboangueño-Spanish Food Festival
June 30
12:00 NN
Rigodon de Palmeras
Zamboanga City

Stage Play "Zamboanga y el aparicion de La Virgen del Pilar"
June 30
5.00 PM
National Museum Courtyard
Zamboanga City

Hanging of Philippine and Spanish Flags
June 28 - 30
Business Establishments and Schools

SC asked to void water resolution

By Leila B. Salaverria

WARNING OF AN INCREASE IN WATER rates, some lawmakers and nongovernment groups yesterday asked the Supreme Court to nullify two resolutions of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and its regulatory office that stripped its two water concessionaires of their character as public utilities.

The petitioners included Representatives Renato Magtubo, Joel Villanueva, Eduardo Zialcita, Mario Aguja and Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, the Freedom from Debt Coalition, the Akbayan Citizens' Action Party and the Alliance of Progressive Labor.

They claimed that implementing the resolution would cause a hike in water rates.

Not public utilities

The MWSS resolutions were issued in July 2004 and stated that concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Company Inc. were not public utilities.

The petitioners said the move would exempt the concessionaires from the 12-percent limit on profit margins. The concessionaires would also be exempt from having to refund any excess rate collections as in the case of the Manila Electric Co. which had been ordered by the Supreme Court to refund excess charges to its customers.

"This will undoubtedly have the effect of increasing the rates that can be validly charged against individual petitioners and the members of petitioner organizations," the groups said in their petition.

They said that by the very nature of their service, Maynilad and Manila Water should be considered public utilities.

They cited the Public Service Act that states that "public service" refers to persons that control, manage or operate, among others, water supply and sewerage systems.

They also cited a Supreme Court ruling that defined a public utility as a business engaged in regularly supplying the public with some commodity of public consequence, including water.

"The concessionaires' sale and distribution of water are expressly defined by both the law and jurisprudence to be characteristic of a public utility. Thus, it cannot be denied that they are public utilities," the groups said.

The petitioners also contested the claim of the MWSS that it was the public utility because it was the holder of the franchise and the owner of the system.

The petitioners said the operation of a public utility was not limited to those who had secured a franchise. They cited the Constitution which states that operating a public utility required a grant of a "franchise, certificate or any other form of authorization."

"The CA (concession agreement), which is a contract between the MWSS and the concessionaires, exercised under the legislative franchise and the Constitution also takes the form of 'other form of authorization' as embodied in the Charter," they said.

The group also said the MWSS could not be considered the public utility alone—its concessionaires should be considered such as well.

"It may be said that the concessionaires are agents of the MWSS in the sense that they exercise their rights pursuant to the franchise granted to the MWSS. However, the concessionaires are by themselves public utilities by virtue of the nature of the service they provide," the petitioners said.

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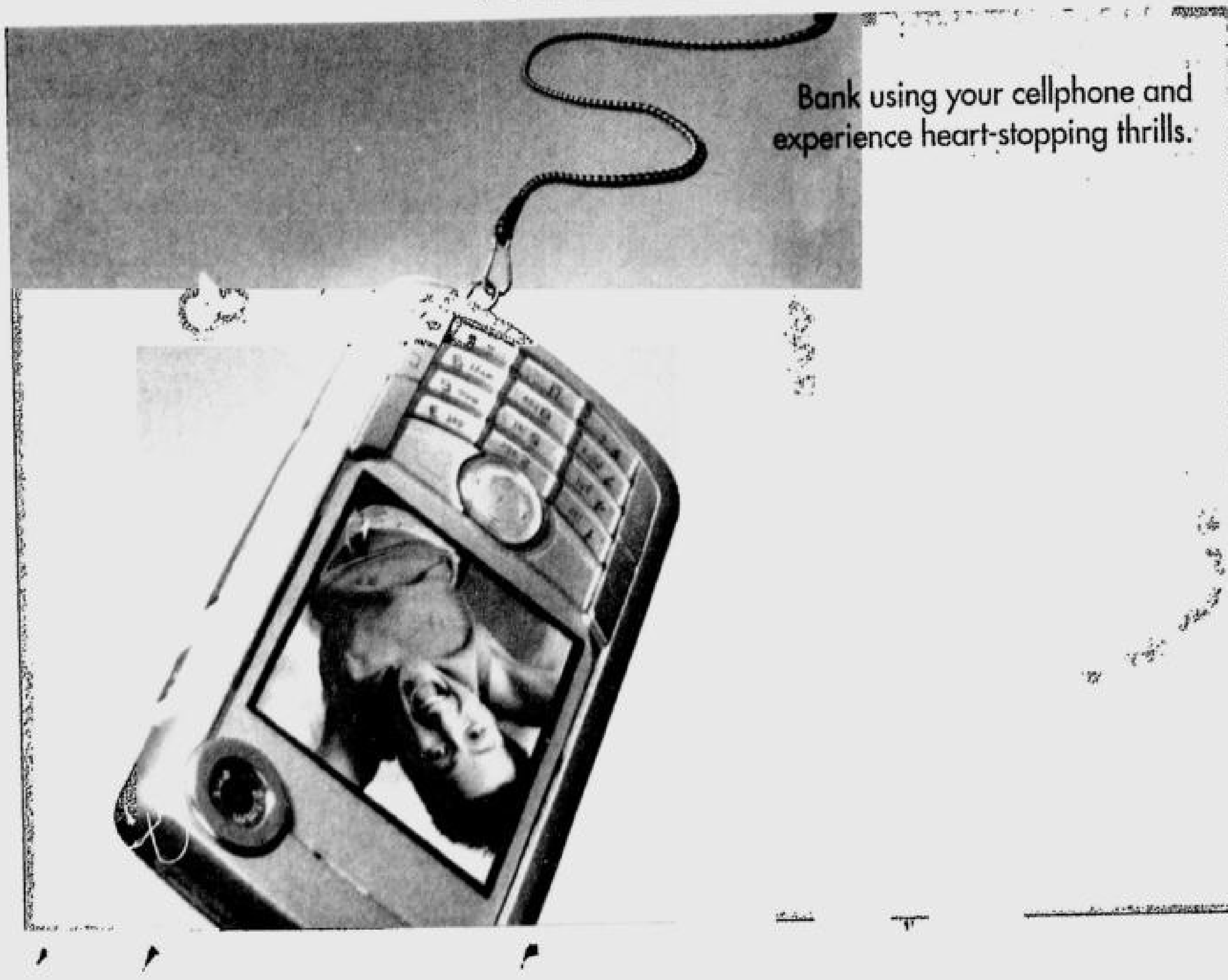

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MLQ III: MANILA ROTARY CLUB'S OPINION WRITER OF THE YEAR Manuel L. Quezon III, a columnist of the INQUIRER, recently won the Opinion Writer of the Year Award of the Rotary Club of Manila. Quezon was cited "for the sophistication and erudition of his column, 'The Long View.'" The citation said the column provides "analysis and insight into current events from a historical and cultural perspective [and] contributes to the public's understanding and appreciation of events that affect their daily lives."

RESPONSIBILITY
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and
The
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PAT ON THE BACK FROM THE BOSSES: PDI executive vice president Dave Valdes (left) and publisher Isagani Yambot (right) join the winners' circle at the JVO awarding rites on Thursday at the Asian Institute of Management. RYAN LIM

We, the sovereign Filipino people, are just fed up!

- The Senate's massacre of the national budget by P64-billion—and thus the failure by Congress to pass the national budget measure—proves conclusively our argument for abolishing the Senate and the House of Representatives: a two-chamber legislature *hampers* national progress and the nation's ability to compete in the world economy; and **it promotes crisis that cripples local initiatives and anti-poverty programs in our 79 provinces, 117 cities, 1,501 municipalities and 42,000 barangays.**

- After two Regular Sessions, **the 13th Congress approved only twelve measures (9 national and 3 local)** that have been signed into law. This is the worst-performing Congress in the nation's history. All because the Senate has become the bastion of political intrigue and destabilization: **instead of buckling down to urgent law-making, it has wasted people's money conducting inquiries that have led to nowhere—and have hurt the nation's hopes of sustained economic takeoff.**

- As of June 8, 2006, the congressional ledger reads:
  Bills approved on third and final reading by the House of Representatives: 840
  Number of House bills pending in the Senate: 824
  Number of Senate bills pending in the House: 2*

- **"The Senate's conduct is disgraceful. We can no longer afford this wasteful exercise of spending more than P700 million in taxpayers' money to approve just one bill."** —Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), which has 1.7 million members—the governors, vice-governors, board members, city mayors, and councilors and barangay officials representing millions of local constituencies.

- "A two-house Congress is like a carriage with a horse at each end pulling in opposite directions. This is impeding the nation's progress and promoting the continued suffering of the Filipino people. We cannot allow an abusive Senate to continue harming our local constituencies. . . **We have suffered long enough and whatever it takes, we are determined to push for *a shift to a parliamentary government and a one-house legislature this year."*** —Mayor Ramon Guico, president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP).

- Guico's sentiment is shared by an overwhelming majority of the Filipino people, who now see the Senate as the impediment to progress—and the only one to profit from a bicameral presidential system, with all the senators' ambitions to run for president.

We the Filipino people are fed up with a non-performing Senate. **We are fed up with the presidential system and the bicameral legislature.**

It's time—this year and **not** the next—to break up the two-house legislature and inaugurate a one-house legislature under a parliamentary government.

*Source: **Senate website**

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PDI bags top two JVO awards in investigative reporting

From page A1

place in the same category. "CAP: From pre-need's poster boy to whipping boy" was written by INQUIRER's business reporters Daxim L. Lucas and Elizabeth L. Sanchez.

"Palawan's gas pain," another INQUIRER investigative report written by Jofelle P. Tesorio, was among the five finalists in the investigative report category.

Most prestigious

Considered the country's most prestigious awards in journalism, the JVOAEJ is administered by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR). First given out in 1990, the awards are in honor of the late Jaime V. Ongpin, a former secretary of finance and advocate of press freedom.

The INQUIRER has since won three first prizes, four second prizes and four third prizes in the awards.

At yesterday's awarding ceremonies at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City, Ongpin's widow and JVOAEJ trustee Maribel Ongpin described the top choices as the result of "the best and the most extensive judging of Philippine journalism today."

"In our present clime of noise and polemics, media must keep us to issues and lead us away from personalities which bog our judgment down into the petty ways of thinking in a box of personal dislikes, peeves and surrender to inappropriate emotions," Ongpin said.

"If media delivers what these finalists did today, we will know better, judge better and feel better about the country and ourselves," she added.

Other winners

In the nondaily division of the investigative category, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) won the top prize for Luz Rimban's article, "Running on taxpayers' money."

In the daily division of the explanatory category, the BusinessMirror won the top prize for its report "Confrontation to cooperation? Labor-management relations evolve in globalization era." Its writer, Dave Llorito, also won the Ambassador's Award, a travel grant to Australia given by the Australian Embassy.

"Focus on Filipino youth: Perils of generation sex," written by Cheryl Chan of the PCIJ, won the top prize in the nondaily division of the explanatory category.

The splitting of the investigative and explanatory categories for daily and nondaily publications was introduced by the CMFR this year, resulting in four, instead of only two, grand prizes.

Winners of the four first prizes each received a plaque and a cash prize of P70,000. Winners of second prizes received a cash prize of P40,000 each, and third prize winners, P20,000 each.

More stories cited

Other investigative and explanatory stories cited:

- "Border dispute leaves Dumagats in a quandary" by Fritz Dacpano, Manila Times (third prize, investigative report, published in a daily).
- "Cheats Inc." by Miriam Grace A. Go, Newsbreak (second prize, investigative report, published by a nondaily).
- "Major players elude government's anti-logging drive in Aurora" by Luz Rimban, PCIJ (third prize, investigative report, published by a nondaily).
- "Electronic ears listen with bugs and taps" by Fil Elefante, Manila Times (second prize, explanatory report, published in a daily).
- "The economics of corruption," by D'Laarni A. Ortiz, Larissa Josephine Villa, Roulee Jane Calayag, Ehden Llave-Pelaez, BusinessWorld (third prize, explanatory report, published in a daily).
- "Mama can't eat" by Vinia Datinguinoo, PCIJ (second prize, explanatory report, published in a nondaily).
- "Bataan nuke power plant: Still unused, still paying for it" by Lidy Nacpil and Mae Buenaventura, Philippine Graphic (third prize, explanatory report, published in a nondaily).

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Sex ed book scandalizes execs, but where is it?

By TJ Burgonio

EVEN EDUCATION OFFICIALS PROFESS TO be scandalized by the supposed existence of a textbook requiring that grade-school pupils bring condoms, fruits and vegetables to school for sex education classes.

They insist there are no such textbooks in circulation.

"We were surprised to see the news item in yesterday's INQUIRER," Estrellita Evangelista, assistant director of the DepEd's Bureau of Secondary Education, told the Senate committee on health yesterday.

"We reviewed out textbooks, we reviewed our modules, there was no such thing," she said.

There is no way such a textbook could have escaped the eagle eye of the National Textbook Evaluation Board and DepEd assessors, Evangelista said.

Evangelista was reacting to an INQUIRER report last Wednesday a textbook in use at an elementary school in Pampanga that required- Grade 5 pupils to bring condoms, eggplants, cucumbers and bananas to class.

Teachers' style

The vegetables and fruits were supposed to be used as props in reproductive health class where the children were to be taught how to use a condom.

"When we interviewed some of the teachers, they said that maybe it was just the style of a teacher trying to explain how it's being used," Evangelista said.

She said the bureau was preparing a memorandum cautioning teachers on the issue.

In San Fernando, Dr. Rosalinda Luna, the Pampanga division superintendent, denied that the controversial sex education module was not being pilot-tested in any school in the province.

In the INQUIRER article, Filipina Rañada, a researcher of Prolife Philippines, claimed that the module was being tested in Pampanga and that Grade 5 students were being made to bring condoms and vegetables resembling the male sex organ to school.

"The report has to be corrected. It is not true. We're not trying the module in the province," Luna said in a phone interview.

She said several parents and educators had called her to protest the content of the module as described by Rañada in the INQUIRER story.

Luna said she herself would not approve the use of such a module to introduce safe sex concepts to school children.

"Are these the values that we are going to teach our students? I totally disagree," she said.

Luna said that high school students in the province were being taught about reproductive health. These lessons have been integrated in science classes, she said.

At the Senate hearing, Evangelista clarified that the DepEd wasn't teaching sex education as a separate subject in public elementary and high schools around the country.

Real-life problems

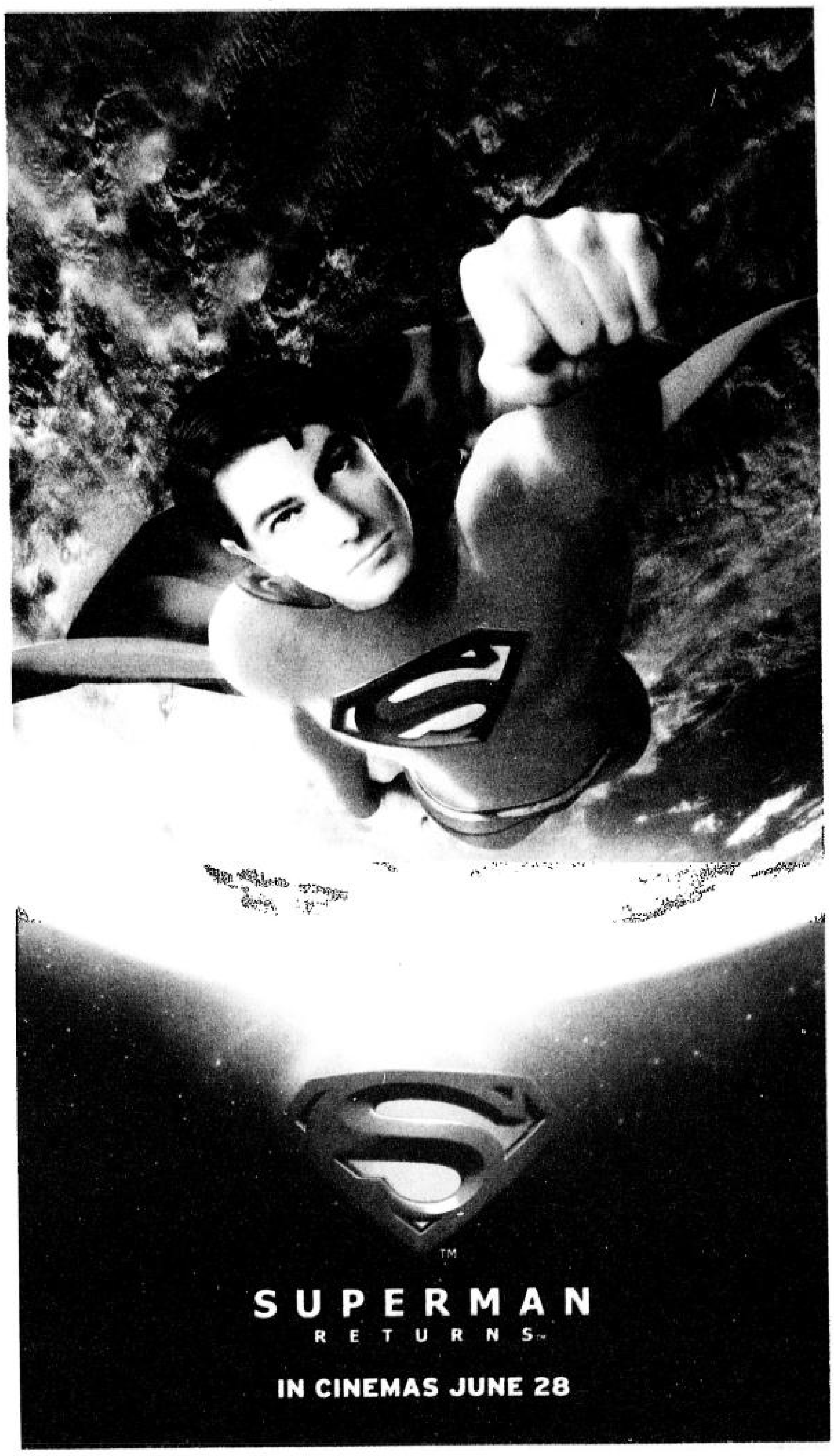
Sex education, however, is integrated in the curriculum for basic health in high school, in such subjects as physical education, science, livelihood technology, she said.

Last year, however, the DepEd started pilot-testing a module on adolescent reproductive health in the Parañaque and Pateros national high schools. But this was stopped when the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and other Church-allied sectors protested.

"Secretary Fe Hidalgo has come up with a directive, stopping the tryout of this module because she would like to review how the statements have been presented and thereafter make a revision," Evangelista said.

The module contains text which says that the transfer of sexually transmitted diseases can be prevented with the use of condoms, among other methods.

Evangelista wondered why some people were making a fuss about the module which, she stressed, uses a "skills-based approach" to instruct school children on how to cope with real-life problems related to their future reproductive health. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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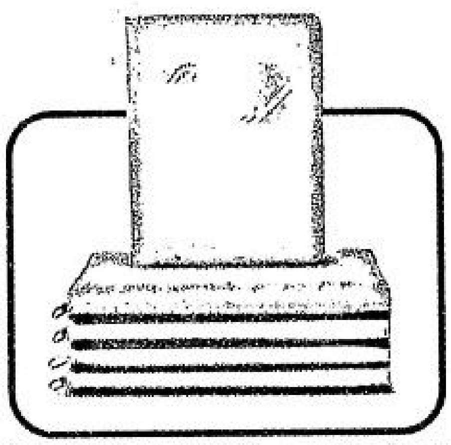

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V
GET READY FOR THE POWER OF RED.

2 justices hit Panganiban: A blow to SC credibility

From page A1

and that the tribunal had concluded that the convict was either the father or stepfather of the rape victim.

Echegaray, who died by lethal injection on Feb. 5, 1999, was the first convict to be executed after Republic Act No. 7659, also known as the Death Penalty Law, was approved in December 1993. (Last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed a law abolishing capital punishment before she left for Europe.)

Echegaray was accused of raping his 10-year-old daughter (or stepdaughter, as his relatives claimed in court) several times in their house in Quezon City in April 1994. The Quezon City Regional Trial Court, then under the late Judge Maximo Asuncion, meted out the death sentence in September 1994.

The Supreme Court affirmed the court's decision in June 1996.

Exchange of letters

Carpio's rebuttals were contained in two letters, dated June 15 and June 21, that he sent to Panganiban. The Chief Justice defended his stand, with an appeal to "agree to disagree," in his replies dated June 19 and June 26.

Associate justices were furnished copies of the exchanges, according to a note on the letters, copies of which were obtained by reporters.

"Sadly, the Chief Justice's charge, and continued insistence, that the court in Echegaray committed a 'judicial error,' even if untrue could, in the words of Sen. Edgardo Angara, 'shake the people's faith in the judiciary,'" Carpio wrote, adding:

"This is a self-inflicted blow on the judiciary's credibility, particularly that of the court."

In his first letter, Carpio said the doctrines that would have merited the sentencing of *reclusion perpetua* on Echegaray came after the Supreme Court had ruled on his case.

PANGANIBAN: No place in society

CARPIO: Applying future doctrine

Power to prophesy?

"To hold that the court in Echegaray should have applied a future doctrine would require the court to possess the power to prophesy. No court or judge possesses such power," he said.

Carpio added that the tribunal's ruling followed existing doctrines and thus decided on the case correctly.

In reply, Panganiban said the Supreme Court had failed to apply an "existing, basic, long-entrenched criminal law doctrine" that what is alleged in the information or complaint must be proven.

He said that in ruling on Echegaray's case, the tribunal failed to prove that Echegaray was the victim's father as alleged and what was only proven was that he was the lover of the victim's mother.

"To stress, since the alleged qualifying circumstance of father-daughter relationship was not proven, then the crime committed was only simple, not qualified rape; and the penalty should be *reclusion perpetua*," Panganiban said.

No place in society

The Chief Justice insisted on his main point that the death penalty had no place in society because it could not be modified should the doctrines change or reverse with the discovery of an error.

Carpio countered that the court had concluded that Echegaray was "either the father or stepfather" of the victim.

"What was alleged in the information—that the victim was the 'daughter' of the accused—was proven as the court expressly declared that the accused was either the father or stepfather of the victim," he said.

In his second letter to Carpio, Panganiban maintained that the tribunal did not make a definite decision on the real relationship between Echegaray and his victim. Specific allegations must be proven beyond reasonable doubt, he said.

Reasonable doubt

Panganiban also said that even if granted, for the sake of argument, that Echegaray was the father, stepfather or grandfather, he questioned if it was a finding that was beyond reasonable doubt.

"Was such an uncertain, indefinite finding or conclusion judicially or jurisprudentially sufficient, acceptable and correct? Was that a finding beyond reasonable doubt?" he asked.

In concluding his letter, Panganiban said he was not blaming the individual justices or the court.

"I was not accusing anyone of any fault. Again, my main point is simply that, fallible as humans are, members of the court make occasional mistakes; thus, imposing and irreversibly carrying out the death penalty should have no place in our statute books," he said.

Academic

Panganiban also said he did not want an endless debate on the matter. In his first letter, he noted that the matter might be academic because of the death penalty abolition.

"You have your view; I have mine. As we always say, let us just agree to disagree without being disagreeable," Panganiban said.

Republika ng Pilipinas
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SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 928-5691 * Telfax No. (632) 922-2568 / (632) 920-2439

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), through its Special Bids and Awards Committee (*Committee*), is inviting interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Assignment of MWSS' Receivables and its Right and Obligation to Subscribe to 83.97% Equity in Maynilad Water Services, Inc.** (Transaction).

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures and shall be governed by applicable Philippine laws, rules and regulations. The bidding process for the Transaction shall have three (3) phases, namely: Phase 1 (Preparation Phase); Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase); and Phase 3 (Bidding Phase)

Interested parties may secure copies of the Bidding Documents, which include the Instructions to Bidders (ITB), at the Secretariat of the MWSS Special Bids and Awards Committee, located at the Sr. Deputy Administrator's Office, Ground Floor, MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines, starting on **26 June 2006 until 10 July 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand US Dollars (US$5,000.00)**. The mode of payment shall be cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received by the interested parties themselves or their duly authorized representatives. All interested parties securing copies of the Bidding Documents shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the said Bidding Documents and to signify their acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Bidding Documents by executing the form attached to the Bidding Documents as Schedule 2 (Acknowledgment) and submitting the same to the Committee at the address given below no later than **2:00 p.m. of 21 July 2006**. Only those interested parties who purchased the Bidding Documents and submitted the Acknowledgment before the deadline provided therefor shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process Late submission of the Required Documents shall not be accepted.

Interested parties who have submitted the Acknowledgment within the deadline provided above shall submit the Required Documents enumerated in Clause 7.1 of the ITB to the Committee at the address given below no later than **2:00 p.m. of 21 July 2006**. The Committee shall inform the interested parties no later than 26 July 2006 if they are eligible to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction.

Interested parties who are found eligible to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction may secure copies of the Bidding Materials enumerated in Clause 8.1 of the ITB at the address given below starting on **26 July 2006 until 28 July 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand US Dollars (US$1,000.00). The mode of payment shall be cash or manager's check. The Bidding Materials shall be received by the interested parties themselves or their duly authorized representative. Only those interested parties who purchased the Bidding Materials shall be allowed to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction as "Bidders".

The Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Documents enumerated in Clause 11.1 of the ITB to the Committee in accordance with Clause 12 of the ITB at the address given below no later than **2:00 p.m. of 11 August 2006**. The Committee shall inform the Bidders no later than 25 August 2006 if the said Bidders have pre-qualified and are eligible to participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction. Only those Bidders who have pre-qualified and are deemed eligible to participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process by the Committee shall be allowed to further participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process as "Qualified Bidders". Late submission of the Eligibility Documents shall not be accepted.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled at **2:00 p.m. on 27 September 2006** at a place to be announced later.

Qualified Bidders must submit their Bid Proposals compliant with Clause 19 of the ITB to the Committee in accordance with Clause 21 of the ITB no later than **2:00 p.m. of 24 October 2006** at a place to be announced later. Late submission of Bid Proposals shall not be accepted.

The MWSS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid Proposals, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bid Proposals at any time prior to the award of the Transaction to the winning bidder, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

The MWSS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify interested parties and/or bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their applications and bids.

(Sgd.) **OSCAR I. GARCIA**
Chairman
MWSS Special Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road,
Balara, Quezon City, Philippines

(PDI - June 17, 23 & 30, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

SUPPLY OF MORE OR LESS 480,000 PIECES
BRAND NEW EMPTY SACKS (MTS)

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P4,248,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the Supply of MORE OR LESS FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND (480,000) PCs Brand New Empty Sacks (MTS).

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible empty sack manufacturers/supplier for the Supply of more or less 480,000 PCs Brand New Empty Sacks (MTS) for Iron Fortified Rice (IFR). Delivery of the Goods will start Twenty-One (21) calendar days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed and to be completed within Thirty (30) calendar days from the first delivery

Re-Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act"

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect/purchase the Bidding Documents at the address given below, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Six Thousand Pesos (P6,000.00)* in cash.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bids & Eligibility Documents	June 30 - July 07, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference (NFA Training Center, 3rd Floor, Reg'l Office)	July 10, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
Submission Eligibility Documents & Opening of Bids (NFA Training Center, 3rd Floor, Reg'l Office)	July 24, 2006 @ 9:00 a.m.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form.

Form	Minimum Amount % of Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC)
Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check	1% of ABC
GSIS Surety Bond marked "Callable on Demand"	2.5% of ABC

Late Bids shall not be accepted

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region VII
Raul B. Chong, BAC Chairman
Cebu Regional Office, Gov. M. Cuenco Ave., Banilad, Cebu City
(Telephone Numbers: (032)232-1939 / (032)233-2264;
E-mail address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph;
Website: www.nfacebu.net.ph)

(Sgd.) **RAUL B. CHONG**
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI - June 30 & July 7, 2006)

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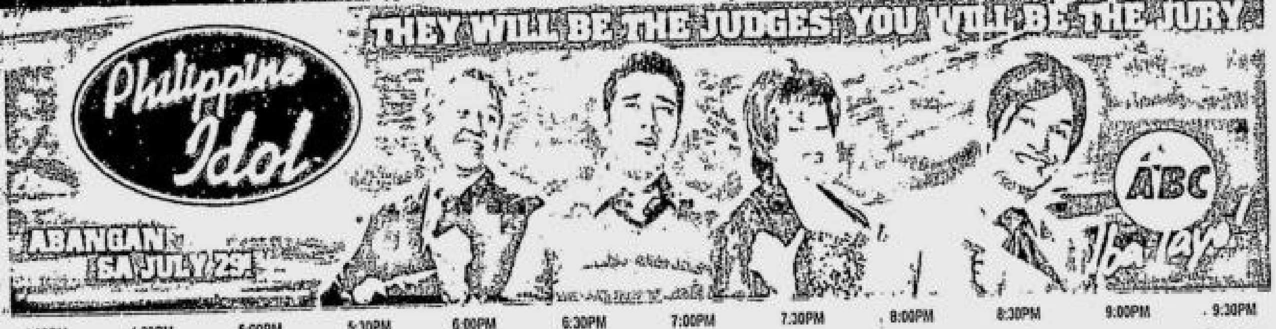
TV GUIDE
Friday, June 30, 2006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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				Nat'l Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Real Stories			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Gudtym			Insider
AXN		Fargo				Mondo Magic	Mondo Magic	Amazon		Andromeda (S5)		[illegible]	E Buzz	Terminator 3					Army Of Darkness
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Codename Kids Next Door	Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons - Double Episodes		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	Dica	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Anak Ng Bulkan				Magnifico				[illegible]				Eseng ng Tondo				So Happy Together	
Cinemax		Blind Date			Shane (4:35PM)				A Kiss Before Dying			Batman				Night Falls On Manhattan			
CNN		Business Int'l		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business Int'l	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Crime Scene Academy	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order Criminal Content		Crossing Jordan	
Discovery Channel	Connect	Extreme Engineering		Altered Statesmen		How Do They Do It		Stay Alive		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It		Psychic Witness		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						Motorsport Asia	US Women's Open Golf Champ'ship				Sportscenter Germany	Germany Tonight		Sportscenter Germany	World Pool Ch'ship '06 [illegible]	Sportscenter Asia			Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia 2		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Tonight Show w/ Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		Maury Povich Show		Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record w/ Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45PM)	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Endless Love 1 Autumn In My Heart (3:45PM)		Sayuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY		Love Of The Condor Heroes		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Empire		In Love And War				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Doc Martin		Hustle		[illegible]			Hustle
HBO		Perfect Romance			All The President's Men (4:45PM)					The American President (7:10PM)				Troy					Wolf (11:40PM)
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TV Infomercial		Japan Video Topics Asia		ME TV		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics Asia	Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Show With David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Decorating Cents	Food Network Special	Boy Meets Grill		Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points		MTV Hits	MTV Hits (with GVS)					Get Spotted	MTV Hits	MTV News	MTV Hits	MTV Divas		Boiling Points		MTV Hits	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXLOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	Nat'l Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Tornado	Violent Earth: Tornado	Planet Futbol Barcelona Confidential		Top 5 - Tornado		WOW! The Real Fight Club		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Tornado	Violent Earth: Tornado	Nat'l Geographic Amazing Moments	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob Squarepants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up/ Just For Kids Special For Kids	Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	New Eps Avatar Legend Of Aang	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Alabang Girls				All The Way				Filipinas				Infection				Byaheng Langit
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Scrapped Princess	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Story)		Mama		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene	[illegible]
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider							Newswatch Now	[illegible]		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherd's Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports				Phil Mn Bk Pro Tour 3	GWS 25-2006	World Tenpin Masters ep 10		World Tenpin Masters ep 11		Sagupaan	NBA Jam	Basketball Charlotte vs Chicago				NBA Action	Solar Sports Desk	World Tenpin Masters ep 15	
Sports Plus		This Is The PGA Tour		FIFA World Cup '06 Round 16						Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision 3	Rookie Manual	BD Peru	Wild Side	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	Booz Allen Classic Day1	
Star Movies	The Engagement Ring			[illegible]			City Slickers II: The Legend Of Curly's Gold				The Dead Will Tell			First Daughter				Species III (10:50PM)	
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Third Watch/ Love Asia		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Dance Mo	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Barkada Nights			Nginig (9:10PM)		News Central	Oprah		Reality World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Luggage pilferage at Naia alarms airlines

By Nikko Dizon

A SON OF SAUDI Arabia's ambassador to the Philippines recently lost a gold Rolex watch from his checked-in luggage at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Amar Wali said he discovered that his expensive watch was stolen when he arrived in Damman, Saudi Arabia.

Wali took Saudi Arabian Airlines flight SV 867 last June 20 from Manila.

Ambassador Mohamed Ameen Wali promptly sent a letter of complaint to the airline's Manila office, which in turn wrote airport authority chief, Alfonso Cusi, expressing alarm over the increase in baggage pilferage at the Naia.

"This was not the first time we received complaint from passengers who traveled from Manila to Saudi Arabia arriving at their destination finding their baggage already opened and pilfered," wrote Nasser Alsadeh, station manager of Saudi Arabian Airlines in Manila.

In his letter dated June 22, Alsadeh said that in January, an outbound first class passenger lost his laptop, while another lost an expensive cellular phone, which he placed in his checked in luggage.

"The pilferage cases from our station (have) increased. Per report from other airlines, they too were getting complaint(s) from outbound passengers about loss of items from their check in baggage," Alsadeh said in his letter obtained by the INQUIRER.

The airline official expressed the belief that a syndicate is working at the Naia Terminal 1, noting that the pilferage could have been done by persons with access to the X-ray machines and loading of baggage to the aircraft.

Alsadeh asked the airport authority to implement a stricter monitoring of all areas at the airport terminal.

The increase in baggage pilferage of outbound passengers is "becoming a concern of AOC now," Leoncio Nakpil, chair of the Airline Operators Council (AOC), told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.

"There is considerable reason for us to raise the alarm that there could be a syndicate working at the airport," Nakpil said.

Nakpil, himself an airline official, said that reports reaching the AOC indicated that an average of three pieces of luggage are pilfered at the Naia every month.

"That's unacceptable to the airlines. There should actually be zero pilferage, but we also leave a window for about one or two pilferage incidents a year," Nakpil said.

The airlines compensate passengers for the valuables they lose from their baggage.

Nakpil said pilferage most likely take place at the terminal's build up area, where baggage are being consolidated and stored in containers before they are loaded to the aircraft or shipped abroad.

He also noted that the Naia's defective conveyor belts have damaged several checked in bags, opening them up for pilferers.

Nakpil said the AOC has already brought up the airlines' concern with the airport authority in a meeting last month.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 30, 2006
12th Week in Ordinary Time
First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

1st Reading: 2 K 25:1-12
Gospel: Matthew 8:1-4

When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed him.

Then a leper came forward. He knelt before him and said, "Sir, if you want to, you can make me clean." Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I want to, be clean again." At that very moment the man was cleansed from his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you do not tell anyone, but go to the priest, have yourself declared clean, and offer the gift that Moses ordered as proof of it."

Commentary

The city of Jerusalem is destroyed, the temple burned, the kings and their families executed and the people driven into exile, except for some of the poor who stay behind. The people turned from their covenant and God was with them, but He did not save them.

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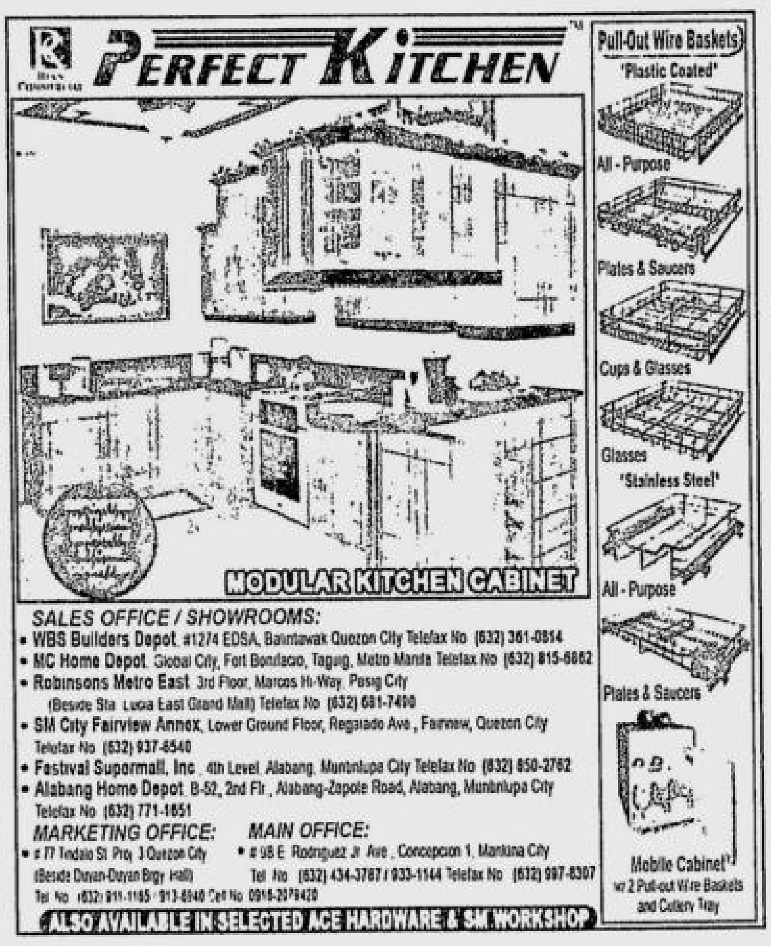

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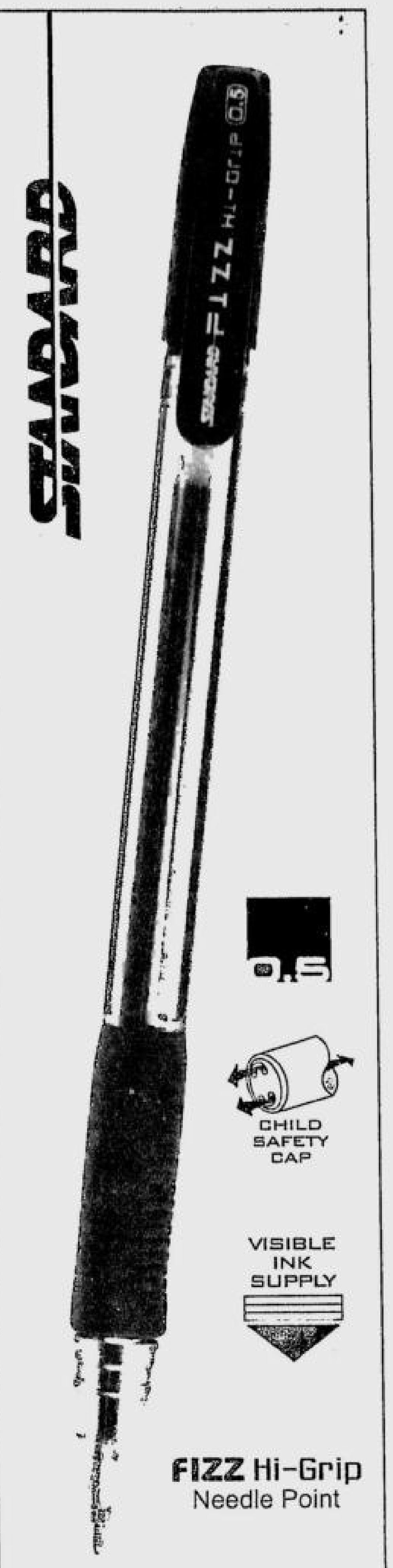

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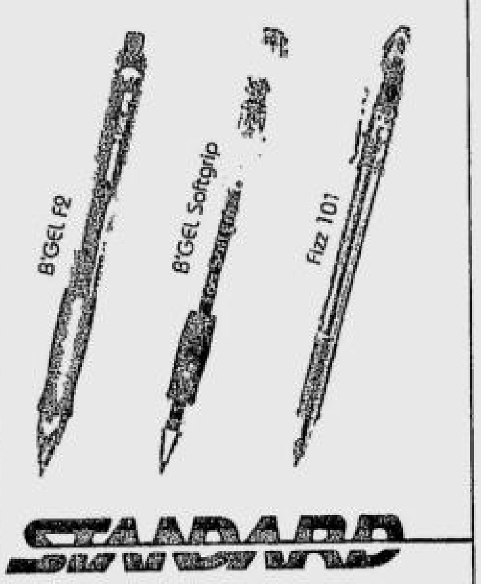

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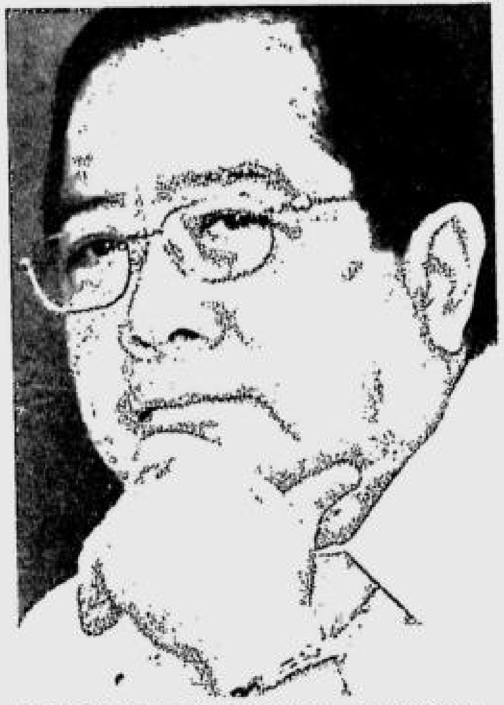
LOMIBAO: Pushing for Director Servando Hizon to reportedly extend his influence.



PUNO: Pushing for Deputy General Oscar Calderon to influence 115,000-strong PNP.

GMA men clash over PNP

From page A1

mita said Ms Arroyo was not likely to extend Lomibao's term and that she had yet to make up her mind on the short list of candidates for the top PNP post.

Pros and cons

Having the chiefs of the DILG and the PNP on the same page has its pros and cons, Ermita said.

"The DILG is the one supervising the PNP and it follows that the DILG chief should be friendly with the PNP chief," he said.

"But having an independent-minded PNP chief could also provide a check and balance in the system."

Puno and Lomibao are both allies of Ms Arroyo. The interior secretary was the architect of her reelection campaign in 2004, while the PNP chief was among the top law enforcement officials named in the "Hello Garci" tape as being allegedly involved in manipulating the election results, particularly in Mindanao where he was stationed.

Both Calderon and Hizon are members of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1973 and both hail from Nueva Ecija.

Calderon was a provincial director of Samar and metro district commander in Davao, while Hizon was commander of the Special Action Force and served as police director of Rizal, Zamboanga and Basilan.

Southern Leyte visit

Lomibao earlier refused to comment on reports that he was grooming Hizon, a constant companion on his provincial sorties, to become the next PNP chief.

Today, Lomibao is scheduled to fly to St. Bernard town in Southern Leyte to help victims of the landslide that wiped out a whole barangay in February.

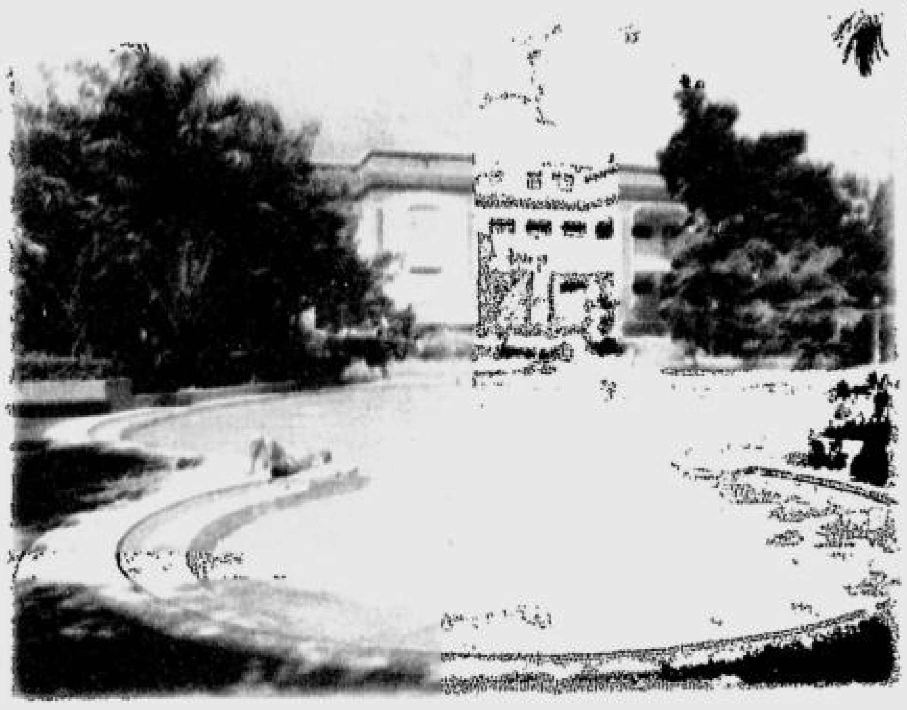
A total of 152 people died and over 900 were missing and presumed dead when a portion of Mt. Kan-abag buried the entire village of Guinsaugon. Two policemen lost everything, including their families, in the tragedy.

PNP's 2-story schoolhouse

The police chief and local officials will attend the groundbreaking ceremony for a two-story school to be funded by the PNP.

The visit will be among Lomibao's last acts as police chief, the coveted post he has held during the last year and three months.

The school project will cost around P5.5 million, said Chief Supt. Ely de la Paz, head of the Central Visayas police office. The money was contributed by policemen, who donated one day's pay, and some businessmen for the town's reconstruction, he said. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*



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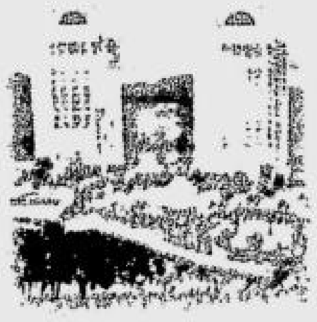

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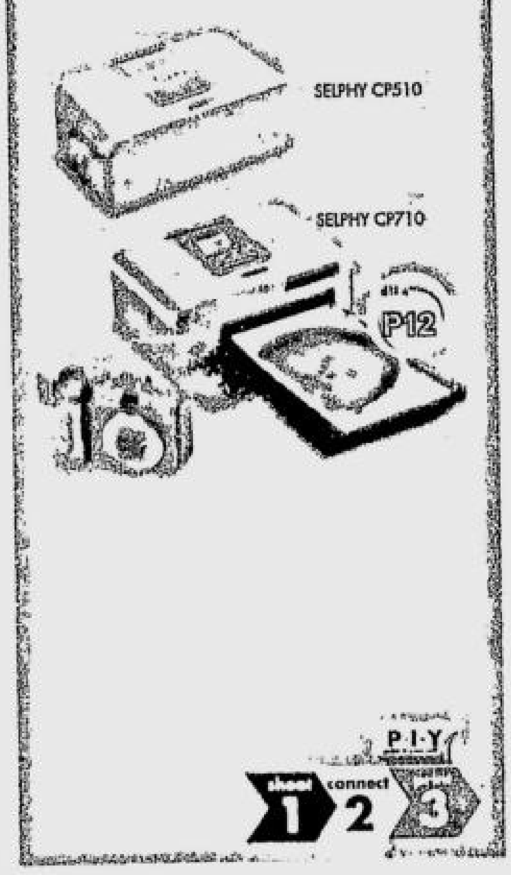

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Joma on extradition bid: You can't touch me

LUCENA CITY—SELF-EXILED COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison has scoffed at the government's plan to seek his expulsion from The Netherlands to face murder charges in the Philippines following the abolition of the death penalty law.

Sison again pointed out that he was beyond reach of the Arroyo administration because no extradition treaty had been forged between the Dutch and the Philippine governments.

"Under Philippine and international law, the Manila government has no jurisdiction over my person while I am in The Netherlands. And neither has the Dutch government any jurisdiction over Philippine events and circumstances," Sison said in an e-mailed statement from his base in Utrecht.

He added: "They have boasted that they could use the abolition of the death penalty for the worst common criminals to effect my deportation from The Netherlands to the Philippines. They are once again showing off that they can extend their hand of persecution to where I am."

Sison called the junking of the death penalty a ploy used by the Arroyo government to gloss over "its extrajudicial killings of hundreds of political opponents."

He branded government officials seeking his extradition as "ignoramuses in international law" and said that even if there were such a treaty, "politically-motivated charges invalidate a request for extradition."

Sison has so far been in The Netherlands for 19 years along with other prominent leaders of the communist-led National Democratic Front, the political arm of the CPP.

On Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the recent abolition of the death penalty law had eliminated a major obstacle to the Philippine government's bid to get custody of Sison.

Ermita had said that he was informed by a Dutch official that The Netherlands could not deport Sison because the Philippines permitted capital punishment.

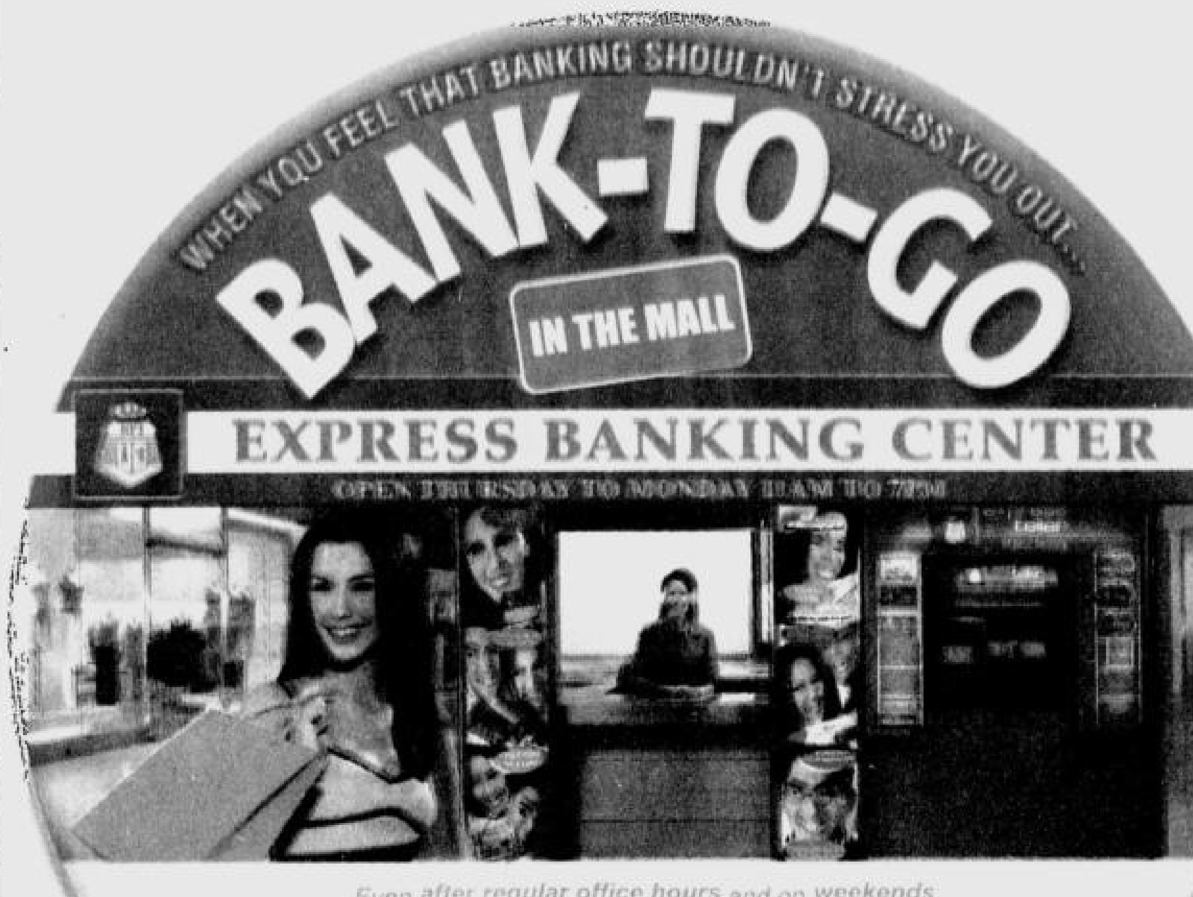
The Dutch government has adopted the policy of not sending back a fugitive to a country that has the death penalty.

Last week, the government repealed the statute calling for capital punishment on criminals found guilty of committing so-called heinous crimes.

Sison maintained that the European Convention on Human Rights and the Refugee Convention prevent the Dutch government from causing his return to the Philippines or any other country where he is at risk of being subjected to torture, or otherwise inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

Sison said that the Arroyo regime had been filing charges of rebellion and murder against him year after year.

He claimed that the charges lacked "factual and legal basis." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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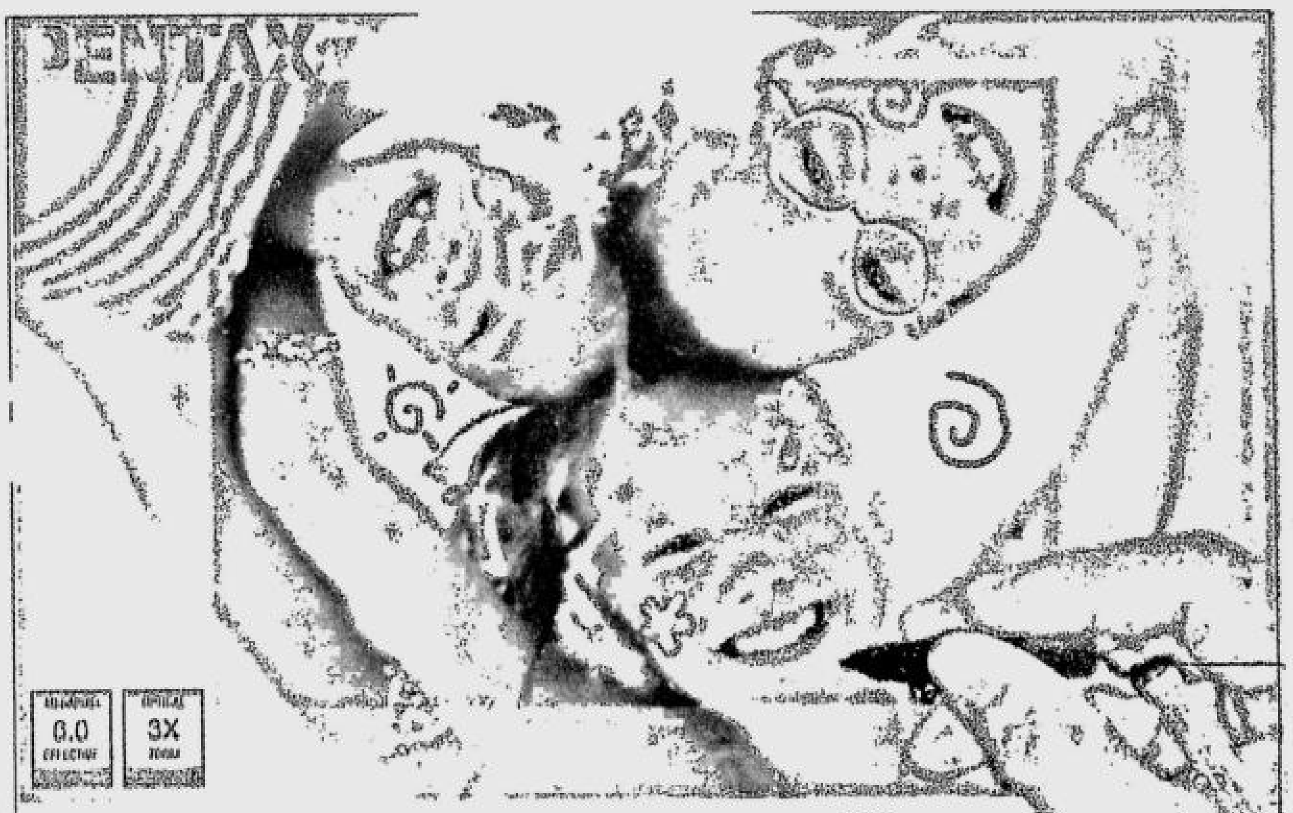
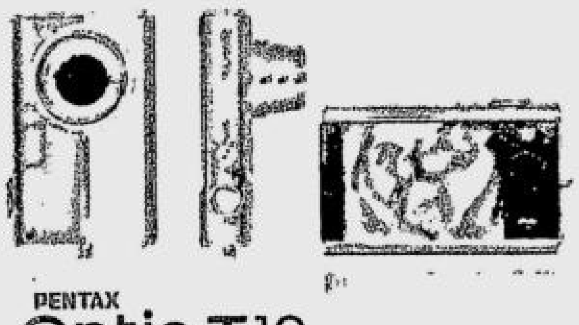
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OPINION

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Spreading impunity

EDITORIAL

ALL POLITICS, AS THE SAYING GOES, IS LOCAL. And the bane of local politics is murder. Mayor Delfinito Albano of Ilagan, Isabela, who was gunned down not in his own town but in Quezon City last Tuesday, is merely the latest to join the list of unlucky local officials. Mayors Luis Biel of Isabela, Basilan; Guerrero Zaragoza of Tayug, Pangasinan; Joel Brillantes of Monkayo, Compostela Valley, have been slain. An unsuccessful attempt was made on the life of Mayor Dennis Pineda of Lubao, Pampanga. There have also been recent assassination attempts against Governors Datu Andal Ampatuan of Maguindanao and Armando Sanchez of Batangas.

While speculation is rife concerning the motivations surrounding Albano's murder (one theory involves turf battles over *jueteng* income, another that he was a coddler of the Left), two things are ominously indicated by the gruesome circumstances surrounding his killing. The first is that the violence in the provinces aimed at political targets has begun to spill over from one locality to others. The second is that politicians as a group are now increasingly facing an escalation of attacks, the same dangers that ordinary people face.

Some quarters have suggested that an increase in crimes such as kidnapping is to be expected ahead of next year's elections. The other side of the coin is that extortion as part of political fundraising is being accompanied by efforts to rub out politicians to get them out of the way. Unlike the liquidation of activists generally critical of the administration, the murder of politicians doesn't seem to respect party affiliation or national political loyalty.

However, whether the target of a failed assassination attempt or a successful murder is for or against President Macapagal-Arroyo, it is she and the national government that must contend with the mayhem and murder. And localities, such as Quezon City, already grappling with car theft and other crimes, now have to contend with violent crimes such as the very public execution of Albano.

Even if the increased militarization of whole swathes of the countryside—as is taking place in Central Luzon—aims to impose a government stranglehold on these areas, the murder of Albano proves that political murderers will simply seek more convenient (and less heavily policed and militarized) areas to carry out their bloody objectives. Assigning bodyguards to officials and cocooning them in bulletproof armored convoys won't stop such efforts. The firepower used will only increase—as will official paranoia.

What is remarkable is that there seems to be more concern over this latest killing on the part of Malacañang than it has hitherto exhibited in other political murders. The cynical might be tempted to explain this as an administration exceedingly assiduous about cultivating local government support, looking out for its own. But it could also be a sign that civilian officials are finally—though belatedly—realizing that unleashing the cycle of violence can only result in a vortex from which no politician can escape in the long run.

The predatory nature of our local politics is being demonstrated in increasingly bloody ways. As is the impotence of the law enforcement agencies of the government to maintain peace and order. While local officials may be more used to violence being an occupational hazard, no local official relishes the idea that he will have to hire more bodyguards, have even more elaborately armed convoys, or entrust himself to an ever-increasing extent to the protection of the armed forces and police. After all, the inevitable question would be: If civilian officials cannot trust their constituents, and if the sole guarantor of the safety of these officials is only the military and the police, why bother with such burdensome officials at all?

Having allowed so many political murders to remain unsolved and unpunished, the government will be hard put to explain why law enforcement agencies should exert greater efforts simply because politicians are now in the sights of assassins. This is called reaping the whirlwind.

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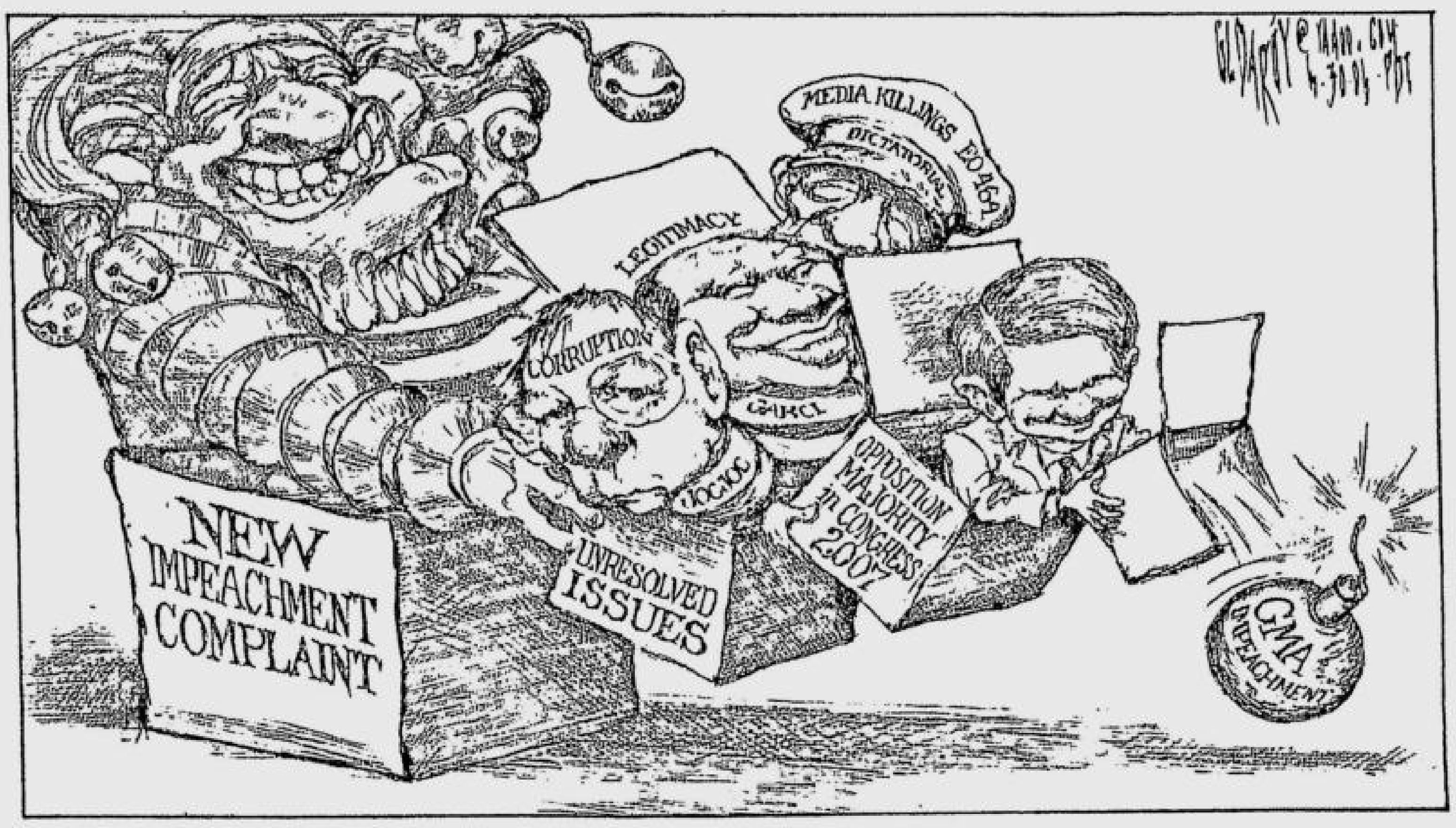

Pope's polite words being given new spin

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

POOR POPE BENEDICT XVI, HIS POLITE words to a visiting dignitary is being misinterpreted and used to advance the political agenda of President Macapagal-Arroyo. "*Pati ba naman ang Papa, ginagamit n'yo pa!* (Why, you are using even the Pope!)," snapped an old woman after reading the newspapers.

How did this brouhaha start? After emerging from an audience with the Pope, GMA and her publicity handlers put their own spin on what he had told her. They said the Pope gave her a pat on the back and said, "Well done." Archbishop Oscar Cruz said the "well done" comment was for the abolition of the death penalty and not for everything that GMA has done in the Philippines because the Pope is well aware of the corruption and scandals going on here, including the Garci tapes. It is inconceivable that the Holy Father would have approved of these scandals, the bishop intimated.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, GMA's No. 1 running dog, disagrees. "You are not the Pope's spokesman," he told the archbishop, "how do you know what he meant?"

By Bunye's own interpretation, the Pope gave a blanket approval of everything that his boss is doing, including presumably the cheating in the elections, the suppression of civil liberties and the assassinations of militants opposing her administration. Well, neither is Bunye the Pope's spokesman, so how did he know that the Father meant all that his fertile imagination concocted?

Alas, the Pope's two words of politeness are being given meanings well beyond what he meant. The Pope receives so many dignitaries every day and he has to say something to them out of courtesy and politeness. When somebody reports to you that he did this and that, your natural reaction is to say, "Well done," out of politeness, *'di ba*? That's the more logical explanation. But alas and alack, even the Pope is not spared from being used to make a stinking GMA administration smell good.

Cruz's interpretation is the more believable one, Bunye's spin is overacting. There are still several days before the GMA party returns home, and that gives them more time to imagine what the Pope and the Spanish royalty said to GMA. You can bet that when GMA, her spinmeisters and members of her entourage tell their stories, they would be embellished with imaginary expressions of approval for whatever she has done and is still doing here.

* * *

By the way, I had reported in a previous column that the presidential entourage totaled 55. I was wrong. It ballooned to more than double—to 133 persons—by the time the chartered plane took off.

All their expenses, including pocket money for shopping, are being paid for by Filipino taxpayers, who can't even afford to give their families three square meals a day because of the high taxes and high prices of basic goods.

Besides the 133 junketeers in the chartered plane, others followed in commercial flights so as to be seen with the presidential party in Rome and Spain. These are public officials, businessmen and other status-seekers who want to be able to say that they were with the President's party during her state visits. That also gives them an excuse to charge their expenses to their offices, as though they were necessary, official trips.

* * *

An indication of how low the Macapagal and Arroyo families look at the Pope and the Vatican is that GMA and members of the two families went to Rome to lobby for the sainthood of two relatives of the Arroyos, both Catholic nuns. Rep. Ignacio Arroyo even held a press conference aboard the plane to tell the journalists, by inference, how holy their clan is.

They pray to these "holy" relatives every day, Arroyo said, and that is why GMA is still in Malacañang. Which means that those who want to oust GMA better give up now. The family has a hotline to God, thanks to saintly relatives up there, who listen to the prayers of their less saintly kin down here.

Poor saintly relatives, all the stories about the good things they had done when they were still alive are most likely true, but the boasting by their living relatives that they would lobby with the Pope for their sainthood is a disservice to them. "We have two pending applications for sainthood," Bunye said. "Maybe she (GMA) will work for the sainthood of the two beatified Filipinos."

Now the sins of their descendants will be associated with them. The association can only be harmful.

In the first place, the Vatican is not Congress where vested interests lobby for their pet projects, least of all for sainthood. Neither is sainthood "applied for." Sainthood is earned by what the particular person did during his lifetime. It is not given due to lobbying by his relatives here on earth.

I will concede that the two dead Arroyos led saintly lives while they were still alive. But their virtues seem not to have rubbed off on some of their descendants.

* * *

Elvis Presley fans, don't forget the show "Elvis Presley Live" tonight and tomorrow night at the Front Page piano bar on T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila. The "Pelvis" will perform, live, through outstanding impersonators who have won Elvis Presley titles in various contests. Included among them would be the youngest (only 9 years old) Elvis impersonator ever. Show starts at 9 p.m.

* * *

Also, don't forget the reunion of the Philets and Artlets alumni of the University of Sto. Tomas next Saturday, July 8, at the Quezon City Sports Club on E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City. The shindig starts at 10 a.m. (remember, it is in the morning, not in the evening). Outstanding Philets and Artlets alumni will be given awards of recognition.

The 'disabled'—and us, the temporarily abled

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

YESTERDAY I READ THAT BANKS HAVE frequently turned away blind customers and rejected their applications to open accounts. The report said that the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) has received mounting complaints of discrimination against the blind by Banco de Oro, Allied Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Metrobank.

Roland Hamond, a 40-year-old reflexologist, was reportedly rejected by Banco de Oro Universal Bank earlier this month when he tried to open an account. Hamond wanted to deposit a P5,000 crossed check, but was refused.

Hamond was similarly turned away by the government-owned Land Bank. A bank spokesman reportedly said they require blind people to be "accompanied by someone who will help them" open the account.

The Bangko Sentral, meanwhile, has denied issuing any rules to shield the banks from the risk of fraud committed against the visually impaired.

Indeed, the NCWDP has advised Hamond to return to the payor and ask for cash instead. Note the irony: With a check payment, the risk of fraud is borne by both the bank and the blind. With cash, the risk of fraud is shifted entirely to the blind. This "cash solution" solves the bank's problem, not the blind's—we throw them to the mercy of the market, and then we wash our hands.

We agonize over political correctness: Are they persons with disabilities, differently abled or physically challenged? The real conundrum is what we should call ourselves—us, the robust and fully abled. Inevitably, we all grow old and infirm. Inexorably, our faculties will decline with the passing of time until, either for reasons natural or man-made, they fail.

It is we who are the "temporarily abled," just biding our time until our powers wither away: the eyes dim, the hearing fades, the knees and joints corrode. The "disabled" are merely those who got there ahead of us, and the conundrum exists only because it is one group, ours, who gets to choose what terms to use for the estranged "other." It is a question, not of language, but of power.

That is why the robust and healthy must see themselves in the shoes, nay in the wheelchairs, of persons with disabilities. That poetic piece of original Pinoy music entitled "Bulag, Pipi at Bingi" in fact asked them to see us instead as figuratively blinded, muted and deaf: "*Marami sa ami'y nabubuhay nang tulad mo, di makita, di marinig, minsa'y nauutal, patungo sa hinahangad na buhay na banal....*"

That is also why the law is important in the struggle against disability discrimination—it compels us to domesticate our baser selves. Why should public buses waste time while slowpokes amble along and clamber up the stairs? Why should taxicabs let their chances at making their "boundary" tick away while a paraplegic's wheelchair is loaded and unloaded in the trunk? It is in such moments that we need the law's "brooding omnipresence."

The late Arturo Borjal left us a lasting legacy when, as a sectoral representative in Congress, he shepherded the landmark legislation we know as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons. The Supreme Court, speaking through now Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, has applied the Magna Carta: equality is "rooted not merely on charity or accommodation, but on justice for all."

In Bernardo v. NLRC, Far East Bank adopted a program to give jobs to persons with disabilities—as "a result of overtures made by some civic and political personalities." It hired 56 deaf-mutes who eventually claimed that they had become regular employees. The bank argued that they had been hired "due to '*pakiusap*,'" by way of "accommodation," and never acquired tenure. Panganiban, while praising the bank for its "nobility [in giving jobs] to physically impaired individuals," held for the deaf-mutes and said they had "acquired legal rights that this Court is duty-bound to protect and uphold, not as a matter of compassion but as a consequence of law and justice."

A few years ago, I asked UP Institute of Human Rights director Barry Gutierrez to organize a forum on the rights of those with disabilities, part of an effort to refocus our attention on the forgotten human rights, those for which no red banners fly, no politburos reign.

I recalled Jacobus tenBroek, spiritual and intellectual leader of America's National Federation of the Blind, a blind constitutional lawyer who received his law degree from Boalt School at Berkeley and his S.J.D. from Harvard. Decades ago, he asked: How would our cities look like if they had been designed by a blind man? Today we find Braille numbers on elevators, texture-differentiated pedestrian paths, and other tactile guides for those who "see" with their hands.

If the parks had been designed by a paralytic, the sidewalks and trees won't have those iron grills that trap the tires of wheelchairs. If classroom assignments were made by humane beings, the classes attended by paraplegic students would be moved from the third to the first floor, a simple bureaucratic step to save the student a thousand painful "steps" over the whole semester. Theirs is not a plea for pity or an appeal to feeling. Theirs rather is a claim to dignity and full participation in the life of the community by the fact alone of being human.

To those who for now still savor the joys of being temporarily abled, the poet Max Ehrmann, more famous for his "Desiderata," offers comfort with "The Prayer": "And though age and infirmity overtake me, and I come not within sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for life, and for time's olden memories that are good and sweet, and may the evening's twilight find me gentle still."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Too much baggage

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE PROBLEM WITH THE SECOND IMPEACHMENT complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo is that it carries an excessive tonnage made up of several hefty complaints, signed by more than 200 supernumeraries, and an incoherent mixture of good intentions.

With this bill of lading, it is easy to see that the presence of Bishop Deogracias Yñiguez, who filed a separate complaint, in the cargo hold is a blessing. He can say Mass daily beseeching God that that this expedition does not sink from being overweight so that he will not be jettisoned as excess baggage.

Yñiguez's complaint, I understand, is no different from the complaint filed by the citizens' group of more than 200. Thus, the good bishop's complaint does not add intellectual weight to the main complaint, especially since he looks more luminous in his implacable and emotional denunciation of the Arroyo regime than in his mental output.

This new impeachment expedition calls to mind the sinking of the Spanish galleon San Diego, off the coast of Batangas. Antonio de Morga used the galleon, which was heavily freighted with treasures and provisions, to engage Dutch Admiral van Noort's agile man-of-war. The Dutch warship ran circles around the lumbering galleon, and punched broadsides on its hull.

The new complaint has repackaged the charges dismissed by the House of Representatives last year. Its claim to innovation lies only in that it has a large number of signatures of prestigious or "eminent" citizens, who seem to be more impressive because of their names than the substance and strategy of their undertaking.

First, the numbers game requires an impeachment complaint to have at least 78 signatures of congressmen so it can be sent to the Senate for an impeachment trial—not the 200 signatures on the complaint. What is crucial is getting the required number of congressmen to endorse the complaint so that it will move forward. Can the citizens' initiative muster the warm bodies in the House?

This is obstacle No. 1. It is an encounter with political reality. It can't be overcome by wishful thinking on the part of 200 or even thousands of signatories to the complaint.

Second, it is the substance of the complaint which will count more than the number of signatures in giving gravitas to the complaint and make it difficult for congressmen to dismiss it capriciously. The complaint runs to 150 pages, including 25 pages detailing the particulars of the three main charges, and annexes. This weight is enough to sink the vessel.

The complaint bunches up the charges in three broad allegations charging that the President: (1) committed graft and corruption, and betrayed public trust when she exercised dictatorial powers to suppress the lawful exercise of the people's right to free speech, assembly, free press ... and the legislative power to inquire into matters relating to or affecting the legitimacy of her presidency; (2) violated the Constitution and betrayed public trust when she "allowed, abetted, and countenanced gross violations of human rights"; and (3) "engaged in graft and corruption, entered into illegal government contracts and concealed her conjugal assets."

Although the new complaint repeats allegations in the old complaint concerning the alleged stealing of the 2004 elections, it expands on this issue and raises new charges alleging exercise of dictatorial powers and gross violation of human rights. It no longer anchors its case on alleged electoral manipulation in the Garcillano tapes. It goes further with the accusation that the President "directed or allowed" fraud in the 2004 elections. It alleges vote tampering in Cebu, Pampanga, Iloilo, Bohol and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. It accuses her of impropriety in appointing Virgilio Garcillano and engaging in "unlawful correspondence" for the purpose of tampering with the vote.

These new allegations reinforce the main thrust of the complaint, attacking the legitimacy of her presidency. In summary, the new complaint expands the range of fire, opening a wide field in which the complainants would have to prove their allegations. In this regard, the new complaint is less focused than the dismissed complaint and is stretched thinly over a wide area.

This approach represents a strategy making the new impeachment an open-ended work in progress and poses problems for the complainants over which issue to focus on so that they can pin down the President. They have applied the carpet-bombing formula, hoping that some of their bombs would score a direct hit.

It is not clear whether the main weapon of this initiative is the issue alleging election fraud, which involves the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency. The two other broad issues, which are new, have nothing to do with legitimacy.

The President's political foes have to choose their weapons and priorities. In this shotgun approach, the strategy seems just to oust her on any issue and at all costs, just like the way the US Federal Bureau of Investigation got Al Capone on tax evasion charges instead of more atrocious crimes.

If the purpose is to trap the President in the dragnet of an omnibus impeachment complaint, then the claim that the aim of this new initiative is to establish the "truth" of election rigging allegations and put closure to the legitimacy issue, which is at the root of the political crisis, becomes hollow. On such a wide range of issues, it seems physically impossible to make a case in an impeachment process.

'Lukayos' and moralists

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

REGARDING THE DOCUMENTARY "LUKAYO: Hindi Ito Bastos (Lukayo: This Is Not Obscene)" which aired recently on "I-Witness" over GMA-7 and which was the subject of a column last June 21, I received word that the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has suspended "I-Witness" for two episodes for airing the documentary in question.

By way of background, "Lukayo" is about the life's work of new National Artist Ramon Obusan, who has sought to preserve, or at least document, authentic indigenous Filipino folk culture which is fast disappearing due to the pressures of modernization. One aspect of this indigenous culture is the role that women play as healers and shamans, an aspect reflected in the work of the *lukayos*, descendants of the ancient *babaylanes*, who bless newlyweds with a fertile union by dancing around them, singing bawdy songs and brandishing wooden phalluses—all in the spirit of good, clean, if a little naughty fun.

But the MTRCB—including officials, agents and alleged complainants—didn't seem to appreciate the humor that the *lukayos* employ or the scholarly, or at least human interest, intent of Howie Severino, who produced this episode of "I-Witness." (By the way, congratulations to Howie who was named "Investigative Journalist of the Year" by the Manila Rotary Club Journalism Awards.)

In its decision signed by Chair Marissa Laguardia, the MTRCB chided "I-Witness" for "showing ... exaggerated large phalluses and masturbation" which apparently "do not fall within G and PG classification applying contemporary Filipino values and good customs as standards."

* * *

SORRY, Howie, contrary to your assertion that the *lukayos* are not "*bastos*," the MTRCB has deemed them and their props as obscene and therefore unworthy of airing on TV and perhaps injurious to public morals.

I don't know, though, what it is exactly the authorities were objecting to. At least they acknowledge the phalluses in the *lukayos*' hands, or tied around their waists, are "exaggerated," because a reviewer claimed earlier that young people might mistake them for the "real thing." As for the alleged masturbation, it's true the women were shown stroking their props or brandishing them before the camera, but surely no one was shown indulging in actual masturbation. If there was malice in "Lukayos," it was mainly in the minds and eyes of those who complained and who were tasked with evaluating the obscenity quotient of the show.

The point of Howie's documentary, in fact, was precisely to place the rituals of the *lukayos* within the context of folk culture, which, regardless of geographical setting, has long worshipped the male phallus and the female vagina and womb as the sources of human life and fertility. Recall the short story "May Day Eve" by the late National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin, set at the turn of the 20th century, which touched on a cult of phallic worship by "*tadtarins*," ancient sisters of the *lukayos*.

Whose "Filipino values" and "good customs" were applied in the case of "Lukayos"? Because if we were to use history and legacy as a guide, the values of ancient pre-colonial Filipino society (still stubbornly embedded at the core of the Filipino soul) would surely trump so-called "contemporary" values, imposed on the rest of us by moralizing hypocrites who have appointed themselves our moral guardians.

* * *

OUR so-called moral betters have certainly been busy these days. They have also been omnipresent on TV and generously quoted in the papers assailing the "lesson guides" prepared by the Department of Education for the use of public high school teachers in discussions covering reproductive health and human sexuality.

The general objection of bishops and their lay acolytes is that the government, through the public high school system, has no business teaching young people about sex, because that's the job of the parents. When adults other than parents talk about sex with young people, they claim, that's a violation of parental rights, perhaps even child abuse.

Take it from this parent of two post-adolescents. Parents make the worst sex ed teachers! Faithful readers know I've not been shy writing about sex or even talking about it on TV, but the times I've initiated conversations on the "S" word with my two children, I've sweated buckets and gone through enough convoluted *pasakalyes* to confuse even the most logical mind. The parent-child relationship is fraught with emotional issues which are bound to crop up even when you're talking about their choice of clothes. What more if you're talking about sex and related issues like dating, kissing and going steady?

Once when I wondered aloud why my kids weren't sharing their "relationship news" more regularly with me, my husband asked: "Did you ever tell Mama about your boyfriends?" "No way!" I replied. "Then why do you expect your children to be more open with you?" he asked. That's my husband for you—Mr. Brutally Frank, but also Mr. Practicality.

* * *

LET'S be honest here. We can't raise our children relying on illusions, with our heads in the clouds and romanticizing our relationships. If we find it uncomfortable to talk about sex, or if we ourselves have hang-ups about sexual issues, we better hope there are adults out there (teachers are my preference) who talk to our children about the facts and details without any of the emotional buzz—or moral judgments—clouding the issues.

Our work as parents is to reinforce the information they receive with our own moral framework and our values. And we best teach these by how we, father and mother, relate to each other and to them. It depends on how comfortable we are with our own bodies, and how honest we are with our feelings.

Ode to Environment Month

COMMENTARY

Nereus Acosta

THE POETRY OF THE EARTH, JOHN KEATS mused, is never dead. But if the dire threats to the Philippines' staggering natural bounties are anything to go by, the poetry of land, sea and mountain may have already given way to the prosaic, or worse, the pathetic. It should not take cursory references to June as Environment Month to remind us of how much damage we have wrought on our fragile ecosystems—and the pressing need for action on various fronts.

Rapu-Rapu Island and the Bastes report on the dangers of untrammeled mining have recently reheated the ecology-versus-economy debates. How much of the environment and long-term sustainability are we going to sacrifice on the altar of much-needed development?

In the metropolis of 12 million residents, the meandering Pasig, a symbol of romance and beauty to writers and poets like Rizal, has become a fetid cesspool of domestic and industrial wastes. Smokey Mountain, once an infamous gargantuan heap of garbage spilling into Manila Bay, emblematic of everything wrong with the country during the Marcos years, may have had a facelift with new housing tenements and a church under construction using recycled and eco-friendly materials. But from the towering sides of a metropolis' refuse, compacted over the years, ominous methane gas continues to billow. Today, much of Metro Manila's solid waste makes its way—over 500 truckloads daily—to the other side of the city, to Payatas, where only a few years ago, 300 families perished when tons of garbage buried them alive.

Elsewhere in the archipelago, the environment takes a constant beating. We are all too familiar with the litany of ecological devastation: a paltry 800,000 hectares of virgin forest today, compared to over 10 million hectares of sheer abundance and biodiversity before World War II; our coral reefs, once billed as the richest on earth, now down to 5 percent in pristine state; our topsoil, the very source of food security, severely eroded in over half of our provinces; over half of 450 rivers now declared dead or dying; our urban air quality ranked among the most polluted in the world.

The Environmental Sustainability Index by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy (see www.esi.yaleenvirocenter.edu) ranks the Philippines 126th in a field of 146 countries. The components of the study included environmental systems, population pressure and threats to public health, as well as governance and institutional factors like investments in science and research. In 1998, when the ESI field was limited to 60 countries, we ranked 58th.

We often hear ourselves wondering: for a country so blessed with the bounties of the earth, with dive-spots judged among the finest in the world, with forests hosting species of endemic flora and fauna found nowhere else on earth, with the Visayas Sea now declared by the marine biologists as the richest in marine biodiversity on the planet, why has it come to this?

"Man's untrammeled greed," stresses Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, known for his staunch anti-logging fight when he was bishop of Bukidnon, has brought us to this state of decay and destruction. We have failed to see ourselves as intricately part of a web of life, environmental lawyer Tony Oposa reminds us. As ecologists bewail a "tragedy of the commons," they challenge us to take to task a system that has failed to incorporate ecology in the calculus of national development. The DENR's mandate, sadly, remains two-faced: the utilization of natural resources (now with an undersecretary of mining to boot) on one hand, and the regulation of such practices on the other.

We forget that ours is still an ecology-dependent economy, Lory Tan of the World Wide Fund for Nature underscores. Forty million people are directly tied to agriculture, to irrigation and watersheds for rice and corn production. Thirty million rely on fisheries and coastal resources for sustenance and livelihood. The environment is the only social security system of our country's vast numbers of poor, but it is the first casualty in the drive for so-called material progress.

Notice how some sectors are salivating over the prospects of opening the bowels of our mineral-rich islands following the restoration of the Mining Act, while using the oxymoron of "sustainable mining" even in the face of ecological disasters like Marcopper's Marinduque, Lafayette's Rapu-Rapu, or Diwalwal in Mindanao. Or how long-dormant or canceled Timber License Agreements in ecologically threatened areas like Samar and Southern Mindanao are surreptitiously revived via official edicts.

Yet, despite this dismal state of affairs—or perhaps because of it—we have one of the most committed civil-society environmental movements in Asia. The work of passionate environmentalists in communities, with novel initiatives all over the country, serves to inspire and educate.

Against a mixed backdrop of widespread despoliation and glimmers of hope and action, it behooves those of us in policymaking to revisit our priorities, move beyond lip-service and ensure that our laws have the corresponding teeth of enforcement and oversight. We need to proactively engage with business to ensure that it becomes integrally part of the larger search for solutions. While job creation and economic development preoccupy our national trajectories, we cannot forge ahead at the expense of the very life-support systems—Keats' poetry of land, air and water that Providence has bestowed on this land—that alone will guarantee our country's future and sustainability.

Nereus Acosta is a member of the House of Representatives and former chair of the committee on ecology. He was the principal author of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Solid Waste Management Acts.

Leaving it behind

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU." NO MATTER HOW wealthy we are, we will all leave the world as we entered it: penniless.

So we try to console ourselves that at least we can leave the fruits of our labor to our children. But last Wednesday, I wrote about a trend toward "mega-philanthropy" where very rich American businessmen are leaving the bulk of their wealth to charity rather than to their children, and they're doing this even before they die.

In particular, stock market investor Warren Buffett has been making headlines with his announcement that over the next five years, he'll be donating 85 percent of his wealth to five foundations, mainly the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. That's estimated to be worth some $37 billion.

I thought I should write a bit more about what's going on, partly with the hope of convincing Filipinos, especially those who have done well in the United States, to think of philanthropies as well.

Eclipsing WHO

First, let me describe the implications of Buffett's multi-billion-dollar donations. His donation to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation could eventually increase that foundation's assets to $60 billion. That's greater than the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of most countries in the world, including the Philippines. It's also larger than the total official development assistance (ODA) of the European Union.

Even before Buffett's donation, the American foundations' financial clout has already been quite formidable. The Ford Foundation, which will now be the world's second largest, has assets of $11.6 billion. Following closely is The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, with assets running to $9.1 billion.

These American foundations have the power to determine the thrusts of health and education programs throughout the world. It's projected that the Gates' foundation could give as much as $3 billion next year to various projects. That's double the total annual budget of the World Health Organization.

Sure, there are fears that the health programs will cater to what the donors want, and that some governments might end up becoming too dependent on these US foundations. By and large though, I'm optimistic that these foundations' funds can help to get public health moving forward more rapidly.

Hard knocks

Last Wednesday, I wrote about how this mega-philanthropy actually continues a trend that grew out of American capitalism even in the 19th century. Early magnates, like Andrew Carnegie, believed that personal wealth should be shared and returned to the society that helped generate it in the first place.

Much of the mega-philanthropy today isn't coming from the old rich. Instead, it's coming from stock market investors like Buffett, and from Silicon Valley computer entrepreneurs like Bill Gates. They didn't exactly move from rags to riches, but they did earn their money the hard way and chose to live fairly simply even after becoming so wealthy. Fortune magazine notes that Buffett still lives in a home he bought many years back for $30,000, eats hamburgers and quotes Mae West.

Note that Hollywood celebrities, whose wealth can compare easily with some of the very wealthy business people, seem to be cut from a different cloth. With a few exceptions, they're not known to be particularly generous, beyond occasional guest appearances in charity concerts, for example. Perhaps it's because the celebrities make their money quickly, and too easily, with many spending the money as quickly as they earn it.

It's sad that Hollywood's celebrities become society's idols and role models, rather than the philanthropists who earn money in the school of hard knocks, and are only too willing to share their wealth.

'Bakya' to 'bakya'

Back in 1986, Fortune magazine interviewed Buffett for an article titled, "Should you leave it all to the children?" He summarized his views with wit: ". . . A very rich person should leave his kids enough to do anything but not enough to do nothing."

He reiterates those views in a more recent Fortune interview: "When your kids have all the advantages anyway—in terms of how they grow up and the opportunities they have for education, including what they learn at home—I would say it's neither right nor rational to be flooding them with money."

It's also heartening to see the notion of fairness operating when Buffett describes "dynastic mega-wealth" or large inheritances as going against the idea of a meritocracy.

In all cultures, there are folk sayings warning about how children tend to waste the wealth of their frugal and hard-working ancestors. My favorite is an English proverb: "From clogs to clogs is only three generations." Lolo and lola start out wearing *bakya*, work hard to make money, but the grandchildren squander it to end up in *bakya* as well!

The Americans offer some models for us to rethink money. Many believe that one shouldn't wait till they die before giving out some money to their children, and to charities.

I know we have a very different situation in the Philippines, where many people will be happy not to leave this world at least without any debts. Even the upper classes have well-founded anxieties about old age, given how savings can be wiped out by one illness.

But I'd still argue that a strong family should discuss what "enough" means for a good life. There's only so much we need for ourselves and for our children. All too often, Asian parents cling to their money, which then leads to vicious inheritance squabbles, sometimes even when the parents are in the deathbed.

Parents who trust their children enough to help handle the family's resources might find their money growing more efficiently—and equitably. People raised in a family that instills an appreciation of the virtues of filial piety, generosity and simple lifestyle will safeguard the family's resources and care for the elderly, even while sharing the resources through philanthropy.

To put mega-philanthropy in perspective, let me point out that last year, the 60 largest charitable donors in the United States gave $4.2 billion, only a small fraction of a staggering $260 billion that Americans, many from the middle class, gave to charities. Guided by a new ethic on money and wealth, a few thousand caring Filipinos could easily generate millions of pesos that can make a huge difference for our country's health and education.

(Visit money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune for more information on mega-philanthropy in the United States.)

An ominous statement

THE JUNE 20 EDITORIAL TITLED "Collateral damage" (PDI, 6/20/06) made a very good analysis of the implications of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's ominous "collateral damage" statement and of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "all-out war" declaration against insurgents.

We in the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR) are deeply troubled by Gonzalez's statement. It hinted of more killings to come. And the President's all-out war declaration could be used as a convenient excuse to justify the killing of more activists, dissenters and whoever criticizes her government's policies and calls for her ouster.

Even before she issued the directive, killings, abductions and forced disappearances were already a normal occurrence. The directive will not only "legalize" but also increase the incidence of human rights violations.

For example, CTUHR documentation shows that those who have been killed and are continuously being harassed in Console Farm in Bulacan belong to legitimate unions and organizations. They are ordinary workers who only ask for fair wages, decent jobs or a venue where they can air their concerns.

But what is the government doing? Military troops, led by Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, are terrorizing communities in San Ildefonso, Sta. Ines and Doña Remedios Trinidad. Detachments have also been set up to monitor the movements of union organizers, such as those belonging to the Workers Alliance in Region 3 and the Kilusang Manggagawa sa Bulacan.

This year alone, CTUHR has already documented five victims of forced disappearances in Bulacan. Rogelio Concepcion, the president of Solid Development Corp. Workers Association, was abducted on March 6 by suspected members of the 24th Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. On April 17, Metal Ore workers Virgilio Calilap, his wife, Bernabe Mendiola, and Oscar Leuterio were abducted by suspected members of the 56th IB in Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan. The victims are still missing as of this time.

Gonzalez's remark bodes ill for any peace efforts in this country. It is equivalent to saying "the worse is yet to come." Apparently, Gonzalez is not satisfied with 687 activists killed during the Arroyo presidency. He does not care that as long as people are mired in poverty and victimized by social injustice, there will always be critics and insurgents. The P1-billion budget given for the AFP's anti-insurgency operations can go a long way if spent for the education and health care of poor Filipinos.

Gonzalez should resign now for he is corrupting even the meaning of "justice." GMA should recall her all-out war declaration and stop the killings and human rights abuses immediately!

—DAISY ARAGO, executive director,
Center for Trade Union
and Human Rights (CTUHR),
Room 702, Culmat Bldg.,
127 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave, Quezon City

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PHILIPPINE LETTERS DAILY INQUIRER

Irresponsible comments

THE NEWS ITEM "EX-DEPED CHIEF, others charged" (PDI, 6/23/06) cited a 1999 ad hoc committee report stating that the Fund Assistance for Private Education (FAPE) had seriously overextended itself financially "due to the questionable financial dealings, particularly the unauthorized and unlawful release of money amounting to P56,650,800 to the Arcelo couple, through an alleged dummy, the John B. Lacson Colleges Foundation, a school in Iloilo City." The news story shocked me.

I am not and have never been employed by FAPE, hence, I could not have "authorized" anything. The allegation that I personally benefited was meant to discredit my integrity. I never received even a single centavo from the alleged P56-million deal.

The Iloilo Maritime Academy, a stock corporation founded by my father, Capt. John B. Lacson, in 1948 is now the John B. Lacson Colleges Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit educational institution. I was instrumental in converting the institution into a foundation in 1985. If I were motivated by a desire to amass wealth, why would I, a major stockholder, convert the school into a foundation and donate pieces of the Lacson family's property in Molo, Arevalo and Bacolod to the foundation?

The comments made by a Department of Education official were reckless and irresponsible. The news item thus maligned not only my reputation but also the good image of John B. Lacson Colleges Foundation.

Why would the DepEd want to harm an established, prestigious and multi-awarded educational institution, when the facts have not yet been proven in court?

—MARY LOU L. ARCELO,
chair, John B. Lacson
Colleges Foundation, Iloilo City

Misgivings

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S DECISION to sign the law abolishing the death penalty leaves me with reasonable misgivings about her real motives.

We all know that the Catholic Church is strongly against this form of punishment for obvious reasons. We know likewise that the Church is increasingly uneasy about Ms Arroyo's adamant refusal to bare the truth and her stubborn insistence that we leave the issue behind and blot it out of our minds. And we also know that in this country there are only three powers that Ms Arroyo fears: the military, the Catholic Church and the people.

Ms Arroyo would resort to anything to keep the presidency, even lying as if it were the most normal thing to do. She has used God's name in her vain effort to appeal to the hearts of the pious and has dropped the name of the late Pope John Paul II as if the good pontiff had approved of her illegal reign.

There are many other things that the Church cannot simply forget just because Ms Arroyo has done it a favor. It cannot tolerate the unrestrained accumulation of wealth by the few, including members of her family, and the ever-growing disenfranchisement of the many.

There are no Lim Sengs or Leo Echegarays whose deaths did not diminish the incidence of heinous offenses. We may also never know how many more crimes were prevented by the threat of being executed.

I guess Ms Arroyo is looking forward. She may be preparing for life after the Palace (granting that she leaves Malacañang after 2010) when she no longer has leverage over the military and when she may be charged for the same offense as Joseph Estrada.

But if Ms Arroyo believes that she has buried the truth that reeks with the putrid odor of her sins, she is mistaken. As Shakespeare wrote: "The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones."—**Ramon A. Mayuga, Germany (via e-mail)**

* * *

The repeal of the death penalty law is the sweet fruit borne of more than a decade of historical struggle for the promotion of human rights in the Philippines. It gives the Philippines a well-deserved niche as one of Asia's leading human rights advocates. It marks a breakthrough in human rights legislation and makes the country more deserving of its new role as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council this year.

The task of enforcing the spirit and character of the law, however, goes beyond the ceremonial signing by the President of the law. The abolition of capital punishment addresses the basic right to life and the dignity of the human person. It anchors the entire criminal justice process in the principle of rehabilitative and restorative justice. It directs society and the government toward a vision that makes the right to one's humanity a universal reality.

In a country that suffers from a culture of impunity and violence, where political killings are a daily fare, the enforcement of the law demands the collective will and direct action of the people themselves. Informed citizens must reach every community down to the village level.

The spirit of the law—which recognizes the humanity and dignity of every person, rich or poor, young or old, Christian, Muslim or lumad—must be taught in every home, school, church and village hall.

This is the only way to fight impunity and violence, a reality that has reached such proportions that it is no longer safe to be in one's home. This is the only way to fight the militarist mind-set that appears to dominate state policy on peace and order—a policy that seems to be preoccupied with witch-hunts and Red baiting. This is the only way to restore democracy, justice and peace to a beleaguered society hungry for change.—**Rep. Etta Rosales (via e-mail)**

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PNP: Albano case solved in 3 days

By DJ Yap

POLICE GAVE THEMSELVES THREE DAYS within which to solve the murder of Ilagan, Isabela Mayor Delfinito Albano.

Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., head of the Quezon City police, said the suspects left traces that were very useful in the investigation of the assassination, which took place in Quezon City.

"I think we may be able to solve this before the weekend," he said, but he declined to give more details.

One potentially important piece of information is the identity of the last person who called Albano on his mobile phone and asked to meet with him on the night he was slain.

Relatives earlier said Albano had received a call from an unidentified person who arranged a meeting with him somewhere in the Scout area at past 10 p.m.

But on the way, Albano was blocked by three bonnet-clad gunmen who shot him using automatic rifles in the lobby of Villa Estela Poolside Bar and Cafe at the corner of Scout Santiago and Dr. Lazcano Streets, Barangay Laging Handa.

Case investigator SPO3 Demosthenes Rebancos said Albano's cellular phone had been turned over to Globe Telecom in the hopes of tracking down the caller.

The number indicated that the caller had also used a cellular phone, but the number was not listed in Albano's phone book, Rebancos said.

He added that it was also possible that the caller was not in any way involved in the murder.

"It's possible that the gunmen had been keeping watch on Albano and only took the opportunity to kill him when they saw him leave the house and followed him," he said.

Rebancos said the person Albano was supposed to meet must have been close to him, or someone he was familiar with, because he had not bothered to change from his sleeping clothes and slippers, and had not brought his bodyguards along.

Radovan said he had met with representatives of the Isabela police to talk about possible motives and angles behind the murder.

So far, he said, there was no basis to conclude that the murder was connected to the previous attempt on Albano's life in November 2004, when four heavily armed men tried to kill him in Ilagan.

He said the police had reduced the number of possible motives to just three.

"We're investigating three groups or individuals, each with their own motives. We have nice leads on these angles," he said, but he declined to give specifics.

With reports from Villamor Visaya and Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

KASALANAN NYO!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Poor cooking seen cause of Bicol malnutrition

LEGAZPI CITY—AN OFFICIAL of the National Nutrition Council in Bicol pushed aside poverty as the main cause of malnutrition in the region, saying the problem lies more in how housewives prepare food for the family.

"Bicol is not that poor. We have abundance of food supply, like rice and root crops. But there is something wrong with how mothers cook and how the family menu is planned," Joselita Armea, NNC Bicol regional director, said during Wednesday's review and evaluation of the implementation of the Bright Child Project (BCP) of the government.

Armea said that under the BCP, they have been teaching mothers how to prepare the right kind of food for the family.

The BCP was given life by Executive Order 286, an act promulgating a comprehensive policy and a national system for early childhood care and development, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed on Feb. 23, 2004.

Ms Arroyo also allocated P5-million in seed money for a campaign promoting the BCP and also for the initial implementation of its programs.

The implementation of this program was prioritized in areas tagged nutritionally depressed. *Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SCENE STEALER
Children on their way to school in Candon City, Ilocos Sur stop to watch a dog perform tricks in the city's plaza. Some residents of places north of Luzon are known to eat dog meat.

Soldiers seal 4-km Bulusan danger zone

JUBAN, SORSOGON—SOLDIERS sealed a 4-km danger zone around Bulusan Volcano on orders of a disaster coordinating office to make sure no one strays into designated off-limits area.

Lt. Col. Benigno Antonio, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, said soldiers went house-to-house to make sure no one strays into the danger zone, that was declared no-man's land by the provincial disaster coordinating council.

Antonio said his men would set up checkpoints to prevent people from straying into the danger zone and returning to their homes there.

Reservists were also called to help keep people off the danger zone.

But residents from two villages near the volcano but outside the danger zone were allowed to return to their homes after volcanologists ruled that it was safe for them to do so.

Arnel Capili, Office of Civil Defense regional director, said the return of the villagers was agreed upon in a meeting with disaster coordinating officials, the Phivolcs and residents.

Village coordinating councils, he said, were asked to prepare for evacuation in case of a major eruption of Bulusan. These councils, he said, should be in the front lines of disaster preparedness.

Juban Mayor Tess Guab-Fragata assured residents that the municipal disaster coordinating council knew what to do in case of a major eruption.

She said plans to relocate the residents are also prepared.

Mayor Edwin Hamor of Casiguran town said his disaster coordinating council was to finalize a relocation plan for residents.

Residents of Sitio Urok, Barangay Inlagadian need to be relocated as they were within the 4-km permanent danger zone, he said.

Capili also said residents of Barangay Mapaso in Irosin town also needed to be relocated but Mayor Lilia Gonzales said the residents won't leave because they felt they were not in any immediate danger.

Gonzales said some residents of a village in her town were still in evacuation centers because of the threat of lahar in their communities.

Bulusan continues to be restive and volcanologists maintained an Alert Level 2 following an earthquake and an explosion in the last 24 hours.

Phivolcs said the volcano did not emit ash during the explosion. There were also no reports of lahar flows, according to volcanologists. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Escapee shot, killed

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—Police shot and killed an inmate of the provincial jail in Lingayen town, hours after he escaped from his guards here on Friday. Reports said Arnold Arbaña, 22, who was charged with robbery and car theft, was accompanied by two guards to a court hearing in this town on Friday but he escaped after eating lunch in an eatery. Arbaña reportedly asked his guards to remove his handcuffs so he can eat. The guards obliged but Arbaña ran. Reports said the guards did not shoot Arbaña as there were many people in the area at that time. A police team found Arbaña in their house in Barangay Mal-ong in Anda town at 6 p.m. that day. Arbaña, however, refused to surrender and tried to escape, forcing policemen to shoot him.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Firecracker factory burns

BOCAUE, Bulacan—A shanty doubling as factory and warehouse of firecracker and pyrotechnic products in Barangay Bundukan here burned after the products exploded on Saturday. No one was hurt but at least two nearby houses were damaged in the blast, Senior Fire Officer 1 Valeriano Dizon Jr. said. Dizon said newly made products—five star, *kwitis* (skyrocket), Roman candle, fountain—were stacked outside the shanty as these were being sun-dried. The heat and chemical reaction from firecrackers could have triggered the explosion, he said.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cops in robberies

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The police have formed a special task force to investigate the spate of robberies in three cities in Cagayan Valley last week. Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, regional police director, said the team would uncover the liability of some policemen and their cohorts in the crimes. Soriano has ordered the police chiefs of Santiago City and Cauayan City in Isabela and Tuguegarao City in Cagayan to coordinate their investigation and solve the cases. The robbers took away at least P2 million from their victims in separate heists last week. Soriano said witnesses identified at least two policemen as behind the heists.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop chief sacked over gambling

BUTUAN CITY—A town police chief in Agusan del Norte was relieved following a raid on Monday by an antigambling task force on a known gambling den near a police outpost in Cabadbaran town. Chief Supt Geary Barias, police director for the Caraga Region, said he fired Senior Insp. Zosimo Duarte, chief of the Cabadbaran police, because he failed to put a stop to rampant operation of suertres, an illegal numbers game in his town. On Monday, members of the elite regional anti-illegal gambling task force swooped down on a known gambling den, near Duarte's outpost. Barias said at least nine people, including the supposed financier, identified as Donna Azote, were arrested in the raid.

Franklin M. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

US ship transports aid

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A ship leased by the US Navy from SuperFerry docked at the Makar port here Tuesday morning to distribute books. Two truckloads of books were given away by the humanitarian mission before sailing off to another destination. The ship, the high-speed vessel-1 Joint Venture, stayed at the Makar Port for only about four hours. Members of the media here, including some employees of the city government, were allowed to take a brief tour of the ship shortly before its departure.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

11 towns under calamity state as bugs spread

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—THE Sangguniang Panlalawigan Monday declared six of the 11 towns of the province as calamity areas due to the "very alarming" spread of the rice black bug (RBB) infestation.

The provincial board stopped short of declaring the entire island in a state of calamity as recommended by the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council in its meeting last week.

Willy Talay, of the Provincial Agricultural Services Office, told the board members that since the PDCC meeting last June 21, the extent of RBB infestation nearly doubled from 242.97 hectares to 472.5 hectares as of June 26, based on a report from the municipal agricultural offices of the 11 towns.

The bulk of the infested rice fields are in the towns of Viga, Bato, Virac, Panganiban, Baras and Gigmoto where the harvests of 780 farmers in 59 barangays have suffered up to an estimated 80-percent losses in expected rice yields.

Talay said his office had forecast the infestation to reach as much as 3,000 hectares at the height of the new cropping season.

The declaration of the state of calamity in the six towns will enable the provincial government to release P1-million from the 5-percent calamity fund, according to board member Rafael Zuniega who presided over the session.

As proposed by provincial agriculturist Herbert Evangelista, P600,000 will be used for the production of metharrizhium, the green muscardine fungus which attacks adult and nymph bugs.

Each hectare of infested rice field would need from 5 to 10 kilos of the fungus, which is produced at the Department of Agriculture's Regional Crop Protection Center in Albay province.

Although the fungus is distributed for free by the RCPC, production is limited due to lack of funds for the purchase of corn, which is used as a growing agent.

The fungus is commercially available for P1,000 per kilogram, which would be costly for local farmers.

The balance of the allocation will be used for the fabrication of light traps for catching adult bugs at night, procurement of water pumps to flood fields near open water to kill RBB eggs, and the mobilization of a quick reaction and surveillance team.

The bugs, blown to the province from Sorsogon by the winds of typhoon "Caloy" last May, suck the sap of rice plants, causing the rice stalks to wilt and eventually die. *Fernan Gianan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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DENR chief Reyes inspects the controversial site of marble mining near the Biak-na-Bato in Bulacan. He earlier said the marble being mined in the site was of excellent quality that was in demand abroad. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bulacan mining firm loses license

CITY OF MALOLOS—ENVIRONMENT SECretary Angelo Reyes has cancelled the mining lease contract of a mining firm operating in Doña Remedios Trinidad (DRT) town after it was found to have illegally cut trees.

Angel Bravo, director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Central Luzon, said the Matatag Mining Corp. (MMC) was ordered by Reyes to pay more than P2.5 million in forest charges for cutting trees and damaging the 9-hectare quarry site of Oro Development Corp. (Odeco) in Barangay Camachin in DRT.

Odeco was earlier allowed to operate in Barangay Camachin under a mines operating agreement with MMC.

But Reyes ordered the cancellation of the MOA after residents complained that the MMC had been cutting down trees and poaching timber.

Bravo said the trees were cut by MMC during its mining operations within the Odeco mining site in Camachin last year.

This was confirmed by environment officers assigned to the area, he said.

Reyes also lifted the suspension of the mining lease contract of Odeco but asked the firm to rehabilitate the areas damaged by the MMC mining operations.

The campaign to protect the environment has become deadly for some officials of the DENR.

In Cotabato City, unidentified men waylaid the service vehicle of Maguindanao environment officer Kahal Kedtag late Wednesday, police said yesterday.

Kedtag remains in critical condition at a hospital here following the attack that occurred in front of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) building outside the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) complex.

Senior Insp. Samson Obatay, city police spokesperson, said Kedtag's relative, Abdulatip Kedtag, who was driving the official's Honda CRV, died in the ambush.

Obatay said aside from the environment official, two civilians—9-year-old Mariel Catangay, and Dexter Cahayag, 18—were also injured in the attack.

"Kedtag was the main target of the gunmen. We believe they were guns for hire," he said. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase with a report from Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fear of cultists keeps kids away from schools

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—ATTENDANCE IN SOME schools in northern Negros Occidental has dropped in the wake of reports that unkempt men believed to be members of a cult are out to abduct and kill young children.

Many parents opted to keep their children away from school, particularly after a 6-year-old boy was abducted on June 12. The boy was later found dead with mutilated private parts.

Mayor Evelio Valencia Jr. of Toboso town yesterday said steps are now being taken to stop the decline in school attendance in some Toboso barangays triggered by fear of the presence of long-haired bearded men, one of whom has been arrested for the killing of 6-year-old Jessie Tabotabo.

Fears of the suspected cult members reported to be wearing blue shirts appear to have spread to neighboring Escalante City and Calatrava town, too.

Two suspected members of the cult—Gerald Prado, 40, of Cabuyao, Laguna, and Roberto Engganay, 50—were arrested in Toboso during the weekend.

Prado is the suspect in the murder of Tabotabo, who was reported missing on June 12, and whose mutilated body was found floating in a river in Sitio Curba Hagnaya, Barangay Tabun-ac, Toboso.

Valencia said reports of the presence of the alleged cult members in his town about two weeks ago have caused a drop in student population in schools in barangays San Isidro and San Jose. Parents of schoolchildren in barangays Tabun-ac, San Jose and Salamanca have also taken to accompanying their children to school for fear that they would be abducted.

"We do not know where they (the men) came from," he said.

KUDOS IN MADRID: Manuel Marin, speaker of Spain's Congreso de los Diputados in Madrid, expresses his delight to President Arroyo on her abolition of the death penalty. MALACANANG PHOTO

TEOFISTO GUINGONA

KINKS IN MANILA: After explaining his filing of a second impeachment complaint on Tuesday at the Kapihan sa Senado on Thursday, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona warns of "civil disobedience" if the complaint is dismissed. ALBERT CALVELO/SENATE

CBCP backs bishop who filed impeach case vs GMA

From page A1

stitution, such as the Ombudsman, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sandiganbayan and Congress itself as well as other citizens' groups."

Quitorio noted that Iñiguez's move on Wednesday was done in his capacity as bishop of the Diocese of Caloocan and as a member of the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya, a multisectoral group demanding a shift to a nationalist economic policy.

No negative reaction

"We respect his decision," he said, noting that there had been no negative reaction from other CBCP members.

Quitorio said Iñiguez did not have to seek permission from the CBCP hierarchy since his move was apparently a "personal decision."

Under the Catholic Church structure, dioceses are considered independent.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles has criticized Iñiguez, accusing him of engaging in a partisan political activity in violation of the principle of the separation of Church and State.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said he was eager to find out if the encyclical that Pope Benedict XVI gave to Ms Arroyo during her call on the Pontiff on Monday frowned on priests engaging in politics. The President is on a seven-day European visit.

"Let's wait because we have an inkling that the Holy Father had said that those in the Church should not take part in politics," said Ermita in a radio interview.

Morality in politics

But Iñiguez and his fellow prelates have maintained that their engagement was driven primarily by the morality issue in politics.

In the January pastoral statement, the CBCP drew inspiration from St. Augustine's observation that "a State which is not governed according to justice would be just a bunch of thieves."

Yesterday, university student councils under the Youth Demanding Arroyo's Removal (Youth DARE) coalition filed in the House of Representatives the same impeachment complaint that had been lodged by different groups in the citizen-led opposition in the past three days in a move to avoid dismissal of the charges against the President on technicalities.

Rep. Ruy Elias Lopez of Davao City endorsed the Youth DARE complaint, a requirement to bring it to the House agenda.

The Constitution allows only one impeachment case a year. Last year, an opposition move to unseat Ms Arroyo was thrown out after an administration-endorsed suit was lodged first. That initial case brought by lawyer Oliver Lozano, regarded as a Palace straw man, was subsequently killed for lacking form and substance.

The anti-Arroyo forces are accusing the 59-year-old President of culpable violation of the Constitution for allegedly rigging the 2004 election, graft and corruption, engaging in political killings and muzzling dissenters.

Civil disobedience

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday warned of civil disobedience and disturbances if the fresh complaint to impeach the President was "unduly blocked" or dismissed on a technicality.

Speaking at a Senate press forum, Guingona, who filed a complaint on Tuesday, stressed that the people were banking on the peaceful, constitutional impeachment process "to resolve pending issues that plague the nation."

Disobedience could take the form of nonpayment of taxes, boycott of classes by students and work slowdowns or stoppages by government employees, he said.

Reacting to Guingona's statement, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said: "My challenge to them is if no one joins them in their civil disobedience campaign, then they should put a stop to their antics."

Yesterday's complainants

Signing the Youth DARE complaint were student council and campus publication officers from the University of the Philippines, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, University of the East, St. Paul University, Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology and Mapua Institute of Technology.

Also joining as complainants were the National Union of Students of the Philippines, College Editors Guild of the Philippines, Anakbayan, League of Filipino Students and Student Christian Movement of the Philippines.

"As future leaders and responsible citizens of this nation, it is every young Filipino's moral obligation to set the bar for public servants and strive for a better Philippines for the generations to come," said Youth DARE spokesperson Raymond Palatino.

Palatino said getting rid of a "corrupt, despotic and illegitimate President is the first step to ensure the country's and the youth's future."

'Marketing strategy'

But administration lawmakers criticized the opposition initiative.

Rep. Exequiel Javier of Antique said the move was nothing more than a "marketing strategy for *ukay-ukay* or recycled charges against the President."

Javier said that "the serial filing of a single complaint but with different complainants and endorsers is a sure way for the opposition and minority to lose their case." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño, TJ Burgonio and Jocelyn R. Uy*

Vidal joins One Voice

ONE VOICE, A MULTISECTORAL coalition opposed to administration moves to amend the Constitution and adopt the parliamentary system, announced that Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal had joined the movement.

Former Commission on Elections Chair Christian Monsod, convenor of One Voice, said Vidal had signed up for the "nonpartisan" movement which is seeking social reforms, the holding of a constitutional convention if needed and the rebuilding of Filipinos' trust in democratic institutions.

"The very encouraging response from individual Filipinos and organizations demonstrate that people are looking for a better way to address the political impasse so that the country can move on," Monsod said in a statement.

Other religious leaders who have signed up with One Voice against the people's initiative being pushed by many local officials and the group Sigaw ng Bayan include Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias and Cainta Catholic College president Msgr. Arnel Legarejos.

PDI founder in One Voice

Monsod said four trustees of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power had also signed up. They were INQUIRER founder Eugenia D. Apostol, former Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro, Edilberto de Jesus and Panfilo Domingo.

"One Voice's position (is) that there is a need for unity around peaceful and constitutional processes that would strengthen, rather than endanger, the country's democratic institutions," Monsod said.

The group's five-point agenda calls for the discontinuation of the present "people's initiative;" a social reform program now; elections in 2007 as scheduled, as an indirect referendum on the current administration; a constitutional convention after next year's elections, if necessary, and a collective effort to rebuild the trustworthiness of democratic institutions.

"We appeal to the proponents of the people's initiative, especially the President, to please rethink this move. Not only is it questionable as a genuine people's initiative but in the context of our current political culture and structure, the kind of parliamentary system being proposed will tend to worsen the concentration of political power in the country," One Voice said in its position paper.

Pacquiao: Please come to my fight

From page A1

between MP (Manny Pacquiao) Promotions and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., will not come free.

In fact, when choice ringside tickets were initially pegged at P50,000 each, Pacquiao himself winced.

To assuage the stunned public, ABS-CBN announced it was giving away some P5 million worth of general admission tickets.

The prices for ringside, lower box and upper box tickets were also reduced to P30,000, P20,000 P10,000, P7,500 and P2,500.

Next came the hyperactive drive to sell Larios, who had lost his last fight, as an awesome threat to Pacquiao's dominance of the world 130-lb boxing kingdom.

For starters, Larios and his handlers, headed by former sports journalist Rafael Mendoza, bragged that their fighter was a lot better than Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales, two Aztec monuments to boxing whom Pacquiao had conquered.

Pacquiao, obviously aware of his stature of invincibility among home fans, tarried and reported late for training at the Wild Card Boxing Club of his famous trainer, Freddie Roach, in Hollywood.

That ploy, it would be bruited about, was meant to provide Larios an apt handicap, a *partida*, against Pacquiao.

Talk of the town

Meanwhile, Pacquiao fans here at home are regularly fed sensational details from the Larios training camp, capped by that one about the Mexican breaking the ribs of a Japanese world boxing bantamweight champion in a sparring session.

Naturally, the "Mano a Mano" between Pacquiao, the people's champ, and the intruding recycled Mexican former world champ, became the talk of the town. Fans of the Pacman started to be sufficiently worried about the chances of their idol.

There came buzzing demands for tickets, but most of the clamor was for free entrance, if not for much lower prices of admission.

"Will it be a good fight? I might just end up wasting my money," said Las Vegas-based trader Vic Calderon, now vacationing in Manila.

Rolando Hiso, a former national cyclist, flew all the way from Chicago with a Filipino fan of Pacquiao's. Hiso has been provided a lower box ticket by one sports official, but his companion has been having second thoughts about paying his way in come Sunday.

'I can hardly wait'

There were claims the stiff ticket prices would've been justified if it were the likes of Morales or Barrera whom Pacquiao will be fighting on Sunday.

Hold it. Yesterday morning, promoters announced a bargain. They offered a buy-3-take-1 scheme for the fight on Sunday.

Inside feed from Ticketnet, official ticket outlet for Mano a Mano, bared that there was a slow, lean demand for the *ducats*.

The fight will be beamed live to cable subscribers in the United States, Mexico, Australia, Europe and Saudi Arabia, but there will be a one-hour delay in the television feed to Filipino homes here.

5 bruises 'consistent' with rape, says doctor

From page A1

comrades cheered him on.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith had admitted prior to the trial that he had sex with the woman, but claimed it was consensual. His coaccused in the case are Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier

"It is consistent," Ortiz replied, when asked by private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua if his findings, particularly on the genital area, jibed with the rape allegation.

On direct examination, the doctor and criminology professor said he was the medico-legal officer who performed tests on Nicole at around 9 a.m. of Nov. 3.

'With thighs closed'

Using a PowerPoint illustration of a female body, Ortiz said he found two "grayish to black" contusions on the upper portion of the complainant's left arm, one just below the right wrist and two on the right leg.

Ursua asked Ortiz about the color of the bruises to establish whether these were inflicted 24 to 48 hours before the examination.

The skin markings may have been caused by a bump, a blow using a blunt object, or a very hard grip ("application of digital pressure"), Ortiz said.

As to the genital examination, Ortiz reported there were "contusions on both sides of the labia minora" which may have been caused by the "forcible entry of a blunt object," such as "a vibrator, penis or a beer bottle."

Such injuries occur in a woman who may have been penetrated "with the thighs closed" or who may not have achieved vaginal lubrication due to "inadequate response to sexual stimuli."

Cross-examination

The doctor also said a previous test conducted by another doctor on Nicole noted the absence of spermatozoa. But Ortiz explained that this could mean that a condom was used or that no ejaculation inside the vagina took place.

On cross-examination, however, Ortiz conceded that the contusions on Nicole's arms and leg may also have had nothing to do with the alleged sexual assault itself.

This was after defense lawyer Jose Justiniano recalled that three previous prosecution witnesses had testified seeing Nicole "struggling" when she was being made to board a police car.

Justiniano was referring to the accounts given by two patrolmen of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and businessman Joseph Khonghun, the first persons whom Nicole encountered after being bodily carried out of the van by the accused.

Another legal counsel, Francisco Rodrigo, cited passages from a legal manual and made Ortiz agree that vaginal injuries could also occur not just because of the "brutality of the male" but also because of the "female's active involvement" in the intercourse.

After Ortiz, prosecutors called in a leading forensic pathologist—Dr. Rachel Fortun of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine—as their next witness.

Expert witness

The US- and Japan-trained Fortun, whose expertise had been sought in other high-profile criminal cases and national disasters, was presented as an expert witness.

Due to lack of time, however, Ursua only managed to detail Fortun's resumé when the latter took the stand at yesterday's hearing. Fortun is expected to start her actual testimony today.

The rape charge is punishable by up to 40 years in prison. The four American Marines have refused to answer the charge, and the judge entered a plea of not guilty for them.

The four accused were part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Force stationed in Okinawa, Japan. The US Embassy, which has custody of the men under a treaty with the Philippine government, hasn't released their ages or hometowns.

Demand rejected

Outside the courtroom, SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga on Wednesday rejected the demand of the women's group Gabriela to investigate an SBMA official who allegedly told Nicole to accept money rather than sue the four Marines.

Lana Linaban, Gabriela deputy secretary general, said her group would call on other government agencies to investigate the supposed attempt by Ben Natividad to buy Nicole's cooperation.

Anna Liza Franco, Nicole's sister, gave that information to the Makati court on Monday. Natividad, a former senior executive assistant of Salonga, has denied making such a move.

Sought for reaction to Gabriela's demand, Salonga said: I think we don't have to do that." Natividad's words, the SBMA chief said, "were enough for me."

He got suspects' names

For one, it was Natividad who got the names of the six original suspects. He confirmed having done that when prosecutors handling the preliminary investigation tried to find out how the names of Lance Cpl. Corey Burris and Cpl. Albert Lara mistakenly made it to the list of suspects. Charges were subsequently dropped against Burris and Lara.

Natividad on Wednesday declined to comment on the probe sought by Gabriela.

The government "must be bothered by this claim as this was an attempt to whitewash the case," Linaban said.

"Something should be done if any government official is found to be involved in the settlement attempts." *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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DR. CRISTABEL TORRES-SY: One-woman advocacy of the silent world of kidney patients.

Doctor brightens bleak …

From page A1

transplant patient refused to take her antirejection drugs. She died not long after, never knowing if her husband would also run away with his lover.

Kidney problems, not necessarily matters of the heart, are getting in the way of a happy life for a number of Filipinos.

Many of these sad stories are kept from the public for fear that they would further alienate kidney patients from society. And it's in this environment of relative secrecy that people like Dr. Cristabel Torres-Sy are providing an extra lift.

Herself a transplant patient, the 48-year-old physician is on a one-woman advocacy promoting public awareness of the silent, often tormented, world of kidney patients.

"Much still needs to be done to help patients get back on their feet," she told the INQUIRER in an interview on the occasion of National Kidney Month.

"They need all the support they can get from their families and friends so they can easily get back to society."

Sy doesn't belong to any advocacy group or medical organization devoted to an aggressive campaign.

Making a difference

But she's been quietly making a difference just the same since a new kidney donated by her younger brother gave her a new lease on life in 1999.

A dermatologist, she's practically converted her clinics at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) and Capitol Medical Center into session rooms where patients can get advice on kidney problems.

Her informal sessions usually extend to homes, supermarkets and shopping malls, or any place where she bumps into people with kidney problems.

Once, word about the soft-spoken Sy reached a Filipino based in Canada. On the eve of his kidney transplant, the man phoned her, asking what he should do and expect after the operation.

Sy still has no idea how the man came to know about her. To be sure, she said, he sounded calm and reassured after their conversation.

Eye for patients in distress

Sy's 26-year battle with polycystic kidney disease, an ailment she inherited, has developed in her an eye for patients in distress and a propensity to help ensure their well-being.

One time, a man walked into her clinic complaining of an unusual dryness and itchiness on his skin. Sy noticed that he was also pale so she asked him to see a kidney specialist.

True enough, the man's creatinine level was off.

Sy said this patient's case illustrated the need to make the public more deeply aware of the external manifestations of kidney problems.

"People have to be conscious of their kidney's condition, especially if their family has a history of diabetes, hypertension or kidney ailments," she said.

Getting her patients' attention, though, is just the first step in her personal information drive. Far more complicated are issues of money, attitude, denial and rejection, she said.

It's no secret that a failed kidney often spells doom to not a few patients, especially indigents.

Growing kidney cases

At the NKTI in Quezon City, between 180 and 200 patients are on the waiting list for kidney transplantation, according to Dr. Reynaldo Lesaca, head of the hospital's Disease Organ Donor Program.

Every year, 8,000 to 9,000 new kidney cases are recorded but only 300 to 400 transplantations are done nationwide, according to Lesaca.

A primary reason is cost—between P1 million and P1.5 million. Even a charity case is pegged at around P500,000, he said.

A new kidney also is not something that you just pick up from a pharmacy, even with the growing underground industry of people selling their organs to the highest bidder.

That's why it is preferred that patients get donors from among family or friends, or deceased persons who had expressed willingness to donate their kidney after they die.

Haunted by questions

Besides the issue of money, patients are also haunted by questions like: Will I be normal after an operation? Will my family and friends accept me afterward? Will I get my job back? Do I need transplantation in the first place?

Sy has heard these questions emotionally raised by patients, rich and poor. Her replies are based on the wealth of experience she's had with her own battle—and triumph—over her kidney illness.

She was just two years out of the University of Santo Tomas medical school when she lost a kidney in 1984.

Her condition kept her from her specialty of choice, Ob-Gyn, and led her to the relatively "benign" practice of dermatology. In the meantime, she had to watch her diet, her blood pressure and possible diabetes.

"I was told that I would later need a transplant but I was in denial. I was a doctor and I felt I was strong," she recalled.

The prediction didn't come true until 15 years later. By that time, Sy was at the peak of her medical career, maintaining a number of clinics in Quezon City and Manila.

Toughest struggle

These she had to give up to confront what was the toughest phase of her struggle against her defective kidneys. A logical donor was her younger brother, but it took time to convince him.

"I understood him," she said. "It's not easy for someone to lose a kidney when you're perfectly healthy. But when he saw me undergoing dialysis thrice weekly, he eventually acceded."

The following year, Sy suffered a stroke and thought it was the end of a relatively successful run. Immobilized on both sides of the body, she watched as loved ones did their part for her healing.

Relatives and friends from way back showed up at Sy's doorstep, others sent notes, prayers and medallions. Her husband worked doubly hard at the business, but never made her feel abandoned, she recalled.

And with sheer strength of will, Sy responded to rehab and began walking with a cane in time for her 43rd birthday in October 2000.

"Never give up, never give up" has been the mantra of her struggle. This is the message of hope she vows to tirelessly communicate to every kidney patient she meets.

UP alumni want to make RP clean, 'like Switzerland'

By Blanche S. Rivera

IT SOUNDS IMPROBABLE—AMbitious at the very least—but University of the Philippines alumni are embarking on an environmental project that seeks to make the Philippines "like Switzerland."

The UP Alumni Association (UPAA) is calling on the university's students and graduates to help jumpstart its zero-waste management program and make UP's six campuses all over the country trash-free.

Dr. Metodio Palaypay, a retired professor and garbologist assisting the UPAA, said: "Our main aim is to show that the Philippines can become like Switzerland. Yes, it can happen here. We can be clean. There are so many graduates, even those abroad, who can help us."

Palaypay said the UPAA wants to build a materials recovery facility (MRF) at each of the 48 colleges in the UP system.

The MRFs will house recyclables sorted from the waste generated by the university. With 200,000 residents, faculty, employees and students, UP Diliman—the largest UP campus—alone produces 100,000 kilos of trash a day, Palaypay said.

"[Under] the past four UP presidents, we had a program for ecological zero-waste management, but there was no funding for it," Palaypay, NGO representative to the National Solid Waste Management Commission, told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Annie Guerrero, founder of the Cravings Group and a member of the UPAA board, has sponsored one MRF at the College of Home Economics where she studied.

Another MRF facility and an ecological training center were put up at the back of the Bahay ng Alumni.

Some 200 alumni, chancellors and officials from all six UP units led by UP president Emerlinda Roman convened at the Bahay ng Alumni last Friday to pledge support for the project.

"We strongly urge the UP Alumni Association to engage faculty, staff, administration and students in activities such as energy and water conservation, recycling and waste management," the UP Alumni Council said in a statement.

The statement will be submitted to the UP Board of Regents for a counterpart resolution that would include waste management in the curriculum of all colleges.

"The University of the Philippines will become an ecological showcase if the [regents] approve a resolution institutionalizing eco-waste management," Palaypay said.

Palaypay has also given a free seminar to leaders of some 200 student organizations at UP Los Baños. He oriented them to the concept of segregation at source, composting and greening.

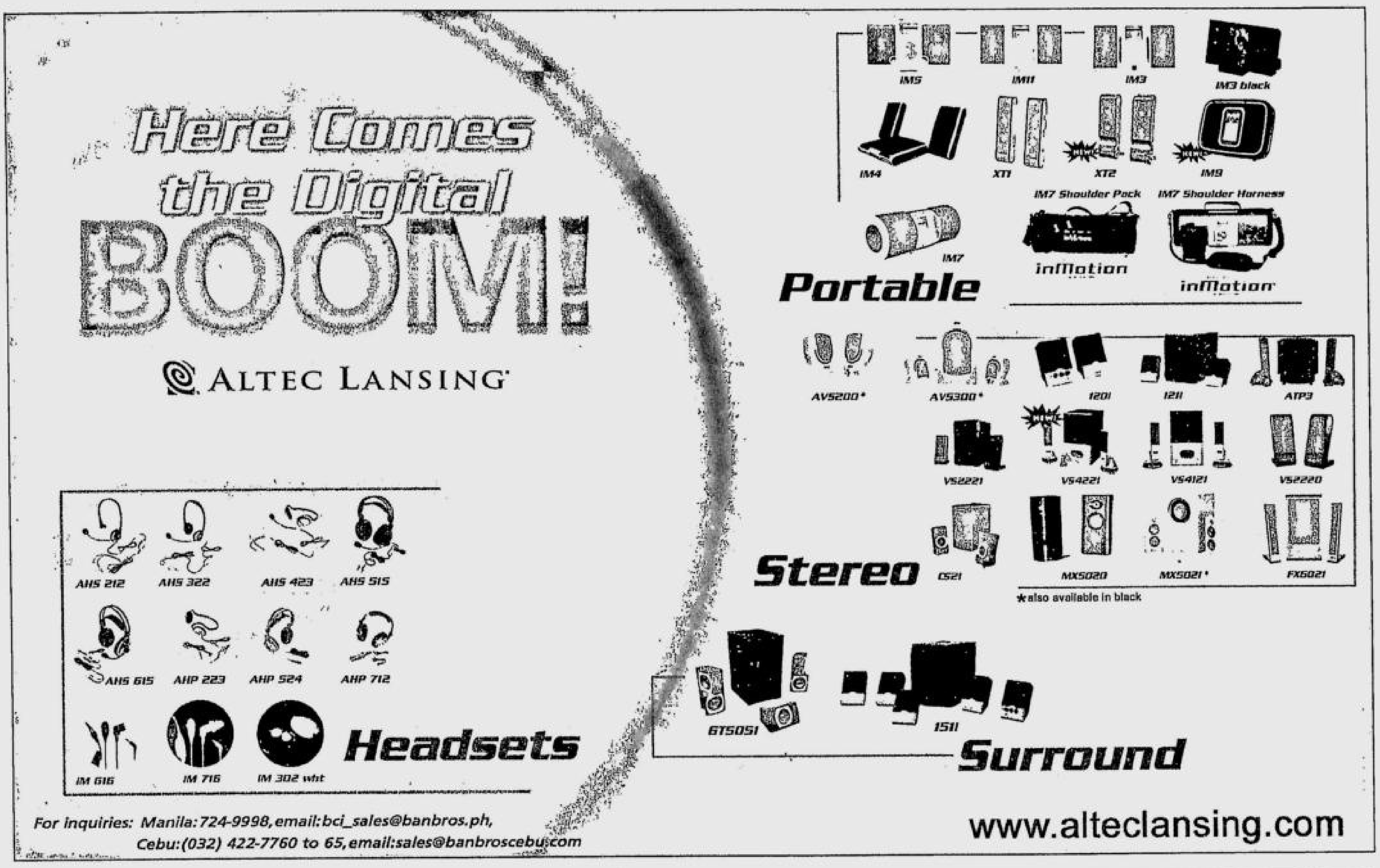
The UP system is composed of six constituent universities—Diliman, Manila, Los Baños, Baguio, Visayas, Mindanao—and one autonomous college.

Mike D's sister now heads PNCC

THE SISTER OF Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor is now the head of the Philippine National Construction Co., the state-owned firm which controls the North and South Luzon Expressways.

Defensor himself confirmed that his sister, Maite Defensor-Asuncion, was appointed as president of PNCC last February but she recently had to take a leave of absence because of health concerns for her son. She replaced Noel Kintanar.

Maite, the former representative of Quezon City's third district, is a dean's list awardee at the UP School of Economics and took graduate studies at Harvard University. She is a license New York financial planner. She was the founding chair of JC Spicecorp. Inc., a family-owned multilevel marketing (MLM). *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*



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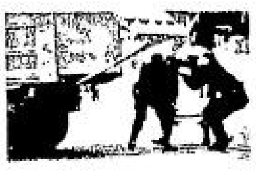

NBI agents want their boss out

Association claims Mantaring running a 'stagnant' bureau

By Margaux C. Ortiz

DESCRIBING THEIR BOSS NESTOR MANtaring as an "ineffective dictator," a group composed of over 300 officials, agents and special investigators of the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday withdrew their support from the acting NBI director.

The sentiment of the NBI Investigators Mutual Benefit Association Inc. (IMBAI) was a complete turnaround from six months ago, when they issued a resolution on Dec. 23 endorsing his appointment as the bureau's permanent director.

The latest resolution was signed by 16 officials of the association who claimed they represented the "silent majority" of the bureau's agents nationwide.

"I called an emergency meeting because there was a clamor from the members to settle this issue," NBI head agent Rafael Ragos, chair of the IMBAI board of directors, told reporters in an interview. "We want a better director," he added. The group claimed that the bureau has remained stagnant under Mantaring's leadership.

Deputy Director for Intelligence Services Edmund Arugay, a member of the group's board of directors, said they wanted President Macapagal-Arroyo to know about the acting NBI director's "poor performance and dictatorial style of administration."

"Even when he was still officer-in-charge of the bureau, he ordered the reassignment of several division chiefs and agents without any valid reason," Arugay said, stressing that only an NBI director has the capacity to issue special orders. "Those he deemed disloyal to him, he reassigned to far-off provinces. The only system he knows is the 'bata-bata' (favoritism) system," Arugay added.

Mantaring, however, said that the resolution may have stemmed from a special order he issued on June 26 about the reassignment of a regional director and four deputy directors, including Arugay. "This is only a regular internal reshuffle, nothing personal," he told reporters.

The special order, which would take effect on July 3, appointed Arugay as the deputy director for Comptrollership; deputy director for Regional Operations Services (DDROS) Victor Bessat as the deputy director for Special Investigation Services (DDSIS); deputy director for Comptrollership Fermin Nasol as the new DDROS and Central Luzon head Edward Villarta as the new intelligence chief in place of Arugay. Mantaring also appointed former DDSIS Alejandro Tenerife as the acting assistant director.

"The special order was not a demotion for Arugay," the NBI acting director stressed. "In fact, the reshuffle was for his own improvement because deputy directors should be able to assume different types of responsibilities in preparation for eventual directorship."

Mantaring, however, added that a number of agents have called him since the issuance of the IMBAI resolution to express support for him. NBI Special Task Force executive officer Arnel Dalumpines said IMBAI officials did not consult other members about the meeting.

ACTING NBI Director Mantaring: Nothing personal about internal reshuffle ERIK ARAZAS

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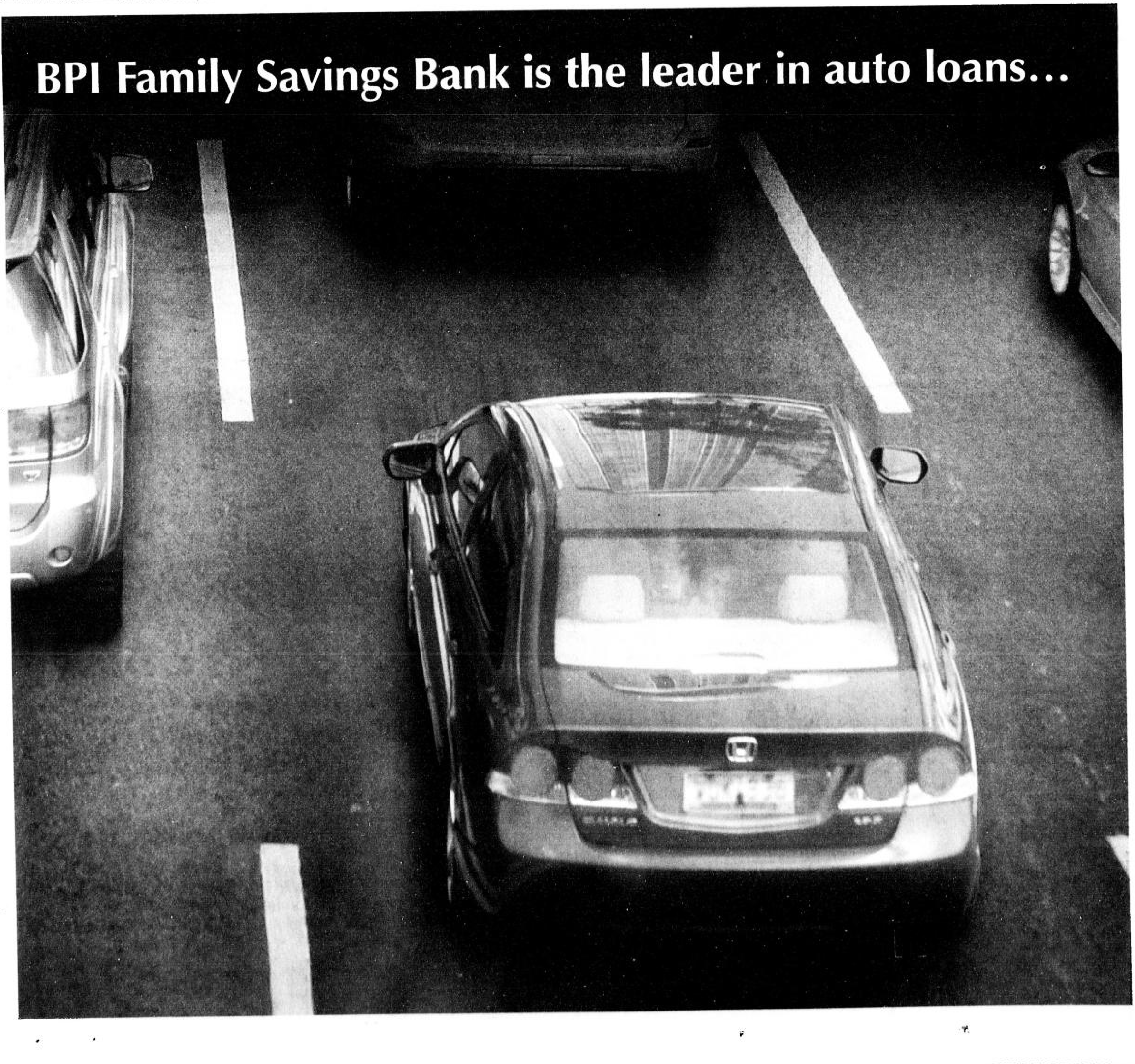
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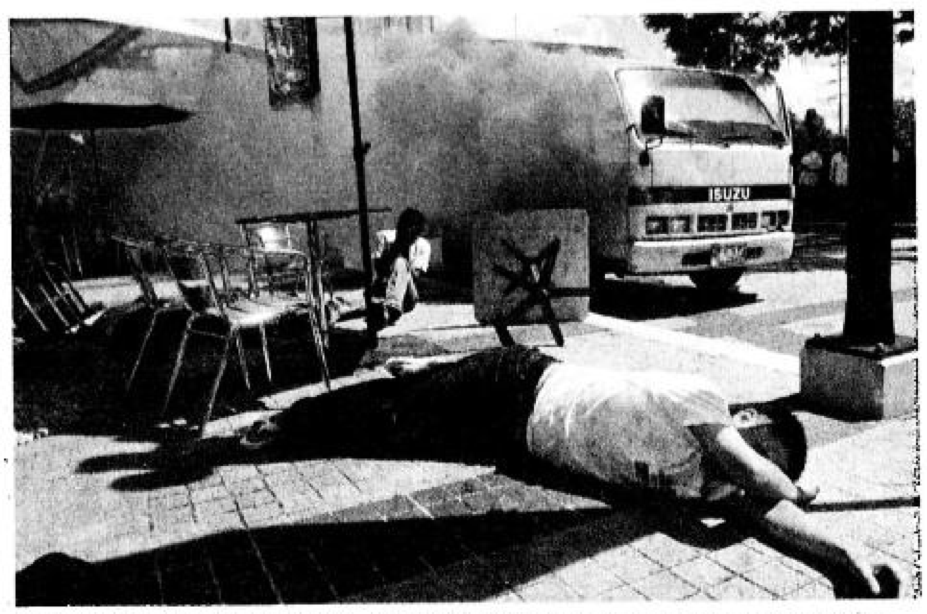
Van 'explodes' in Mandaluyong as drill takes off



A SIMULATED bomb explosion—complete with "casualties"—at the Shangri-La Plaza mall in Mandaluyong City, part of a series of drills conducted by police.

RAFFY LERMA

By Luige A. del Puerto
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A VAN PARKED IN FRONT OF A GIant mall in Mandaluyong "exploded" and "injured" three people at 10 a.m. yesterday.

Within minutes, guards had cordoned off the blast site as the mall's K9 units began scouring plant boxes, tables and cars in search of other improvised explosive devices or IEDs.

They found another one inside a parked van and three police dogs confirmed its presence by sitting beside the vehicle. Soon after, a police bomb unit arrived, checked the van and caused the IED to fall into a bomb basket, a protective cylinder used in transporting explosives.

Medical teams, meanwhile, took the "victims" to a site where they received first aid before they were transferred to a hospital. The series of events, part of a bomb attack drill conducted by security officials of the Edsa Shangri-La Mall and the National Capital Region Police Office. The exercise was held before the mall opened its doors to the public.

Yesterday's drill was part of a series of bomb attack simulations being planned by the NCRPO to test the business establishments' preparedness for dealing with such an scenario.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, however, had said earlier that he would not allow drills in his city, saying the bomb attack simulation could cause panic.

NCRPO chief Director Vidal Querol, however, said the other day that while he respected the mayor's stand, it was up to Makati's security managers to decide whether or not to push through with the drill. Yesterday, the NCRPO chief said the planned drill in Makati City would take place.

DID YOU KNOW

The tallest building in the country is the Philippine Bank of Communications (PBCom) tower on Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

PBCom has 52 storeys and an eight-level radio tower. Designed by US-based Skidmore, Owens and Merrill, the building soars to a height of 259 meters.

Emporis, a multinational real estate research company that keeps a list of the world's high-rise buildings, ranks PBCom as the 84th tallest skyscraper in the world. The list is topped by Taipei 101, a 101-storey building in Taiwan with a height of 509 meters—almost twice that of PBCom.

Mel Lawrence de Guzman, PDI Research

Japanese man stabbed dead by brother-in-law

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A SECURITY CAMERA HELPED POLICE arrest a man who stabbed his Japanese brother-in-law to death in front of the victim's children in Pasig City at around midnight Wednesday.

"The camera would not tell a lie," National Capital Region Police Office chief Vidal Querol said yesterday.

The police recovered the blood-stained shirt of Matias Hicale after the killing of Fumio Omino, 50, inside his Internet cafe in Barangay Manggahan, Pasig City.

"It was the same shirt he was wearing as shown in the footage taken by the closed circuit security camera inside the cafe," Querol said.

Hicale, a caretaker at the cafe, gave up to the police hours later. "I surrendered because I know it was not really my fault. I did not know what I was doing," he said.

He added that he was blinded by rage when Omino started yelling at him in Japanese after he asked for money to buy some beer.

Hicale suddenly pulled out a knife and stabbed Omino repeatedly in the chest and belly. He also stabbed another worker who tried to stop him.

Hicale then ran out of the shop on Magsaysay Road in Karangalan Village.

His victims were brought to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center where Omino was declared dead on arrival. *With Reuters report*

METROBRIEFS

Dog owner sues fake vet

THE OWNER of seven Beagle pups that died allegedly in the hands of an unlicensed veterinarian is not taking the deaths of her pets lightly. Essencia Manarpiis, a resident of Antipolo City, has charged Lito Jerez of the Animal City Veterinary Clinic with violating the law regulating veterinary medicine in the Philippines. Manarpiis accused Jerez of causing the deaths of seven of her eight purebred beagle pups, by giving them deworming shots by mistake. In a criminal complaint filed at the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Manarpiis said Jerez violated Republic Act 382 by misrepresenting himself as a licensed veterinarian, even though his name is not registered with the Professional Regulation Commission.

DJ Yap

Mart supervisor jailed

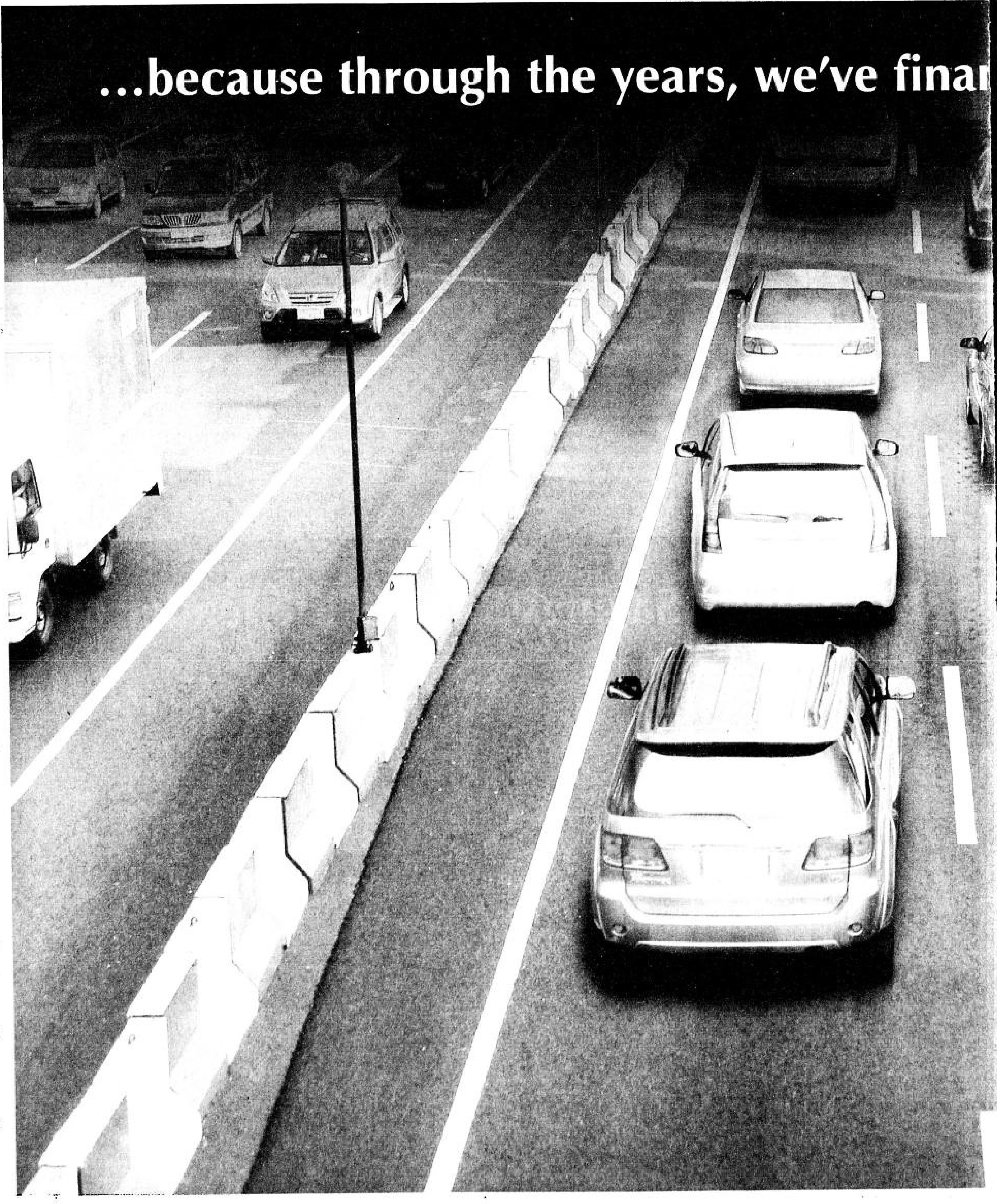
AN EMPLOYEE of a supermarket in Makati City was sent to jail for allegedly stealing four cans of infant milk on Wednesday night. Alejo Ruenada, 32, assistant supervisor of Rustan's Supermarket in Ayala, will be charged with qualified theft after four cans of milk worth P2,500 were found in his backpack, said case investigator P02 Alejandro Devalid. The store's security guard, Eufrocina Abong, got suspicious after Ruenada did not allow him to inspect his knapsack after work at around 9:30 p.m., Devalid added. The security guard, however, caught up with him before he could leave on board his motorcycle. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Fête de la musique

OVER 150 bands will play at the Fête de la Musique to be held at 4 p.m. today at the SM Mall of Asia. The best of jazz, rock, blues, alternative, electronic, reggae and ethnic percussion will be showcased in the event. Otherwise known as World Music Day, the fete started 20 years ago in the streets of Paris where performers would play live music the whole day. Since then, over 100 countries have adapted this tradition.

Solmirano Jr.; 51

FLORENTINO G. Solmirano Jr., brother of PDI Southern Luzon Bureau chief Floreño G. Solmirano, died at 2 a.m., Tuesday at the age of 51. His body lies in his home at 16 A. Talon St., Barangay 70, Caloocan City. Interment will be at 9 a.m. Sunday at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City. Solmirano is survived by wife Becbec and children Christian, Christine and Chris; brothers Manuel, Augusto and Lorenzo; sisters Myrna S. Agtarap, Susan S. Palor and Arlene S. Agtarap; in-laws, nephews and nieces.



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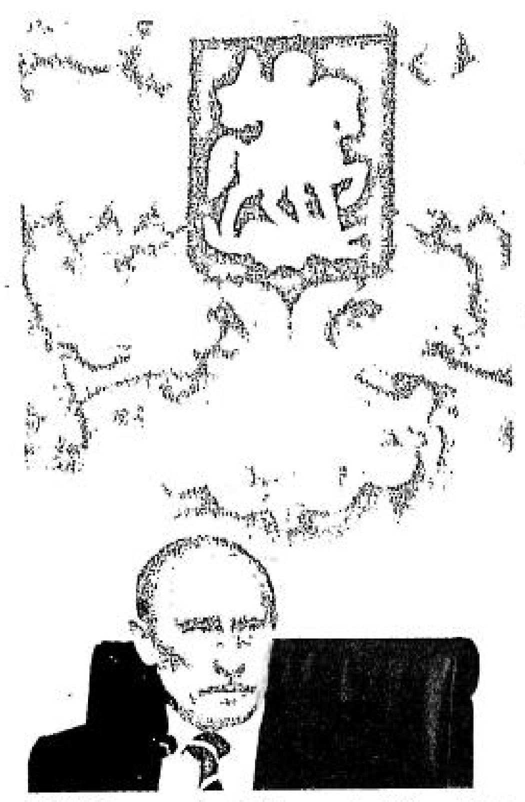
Putin to spies: Kill killers of envoys



PUTIN at a session in the new building of the Supreme Court in Moscow June 22. REUTERS

MOSCOW—PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin has ordered Russia's secret services to locate and kill the murderers of four Russian Embassy staff who were kidnapped in Iraq, the Kremlin said Wednesday.

"The president gave the instruction to the Russian secret services to take all necessary steps to find and destroy the criminals who committed this evil deed," a Kremlin official said.

The embassy employees were abducted when gunmen attacked their vehicle in the west Baghdad neighborhood of Mansur on June 3. A fifth Russian citizen was killed during the kidnapping.

"Russia would be grateful to all its friends for any information about the criminals who killed the Russian citizens," the official said, adding that Putin had made such an appeal during a visit to Moscow by the governor of the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Following Putin's instruction, the head of the FSB secret service, Nikolai Patrushev, promised an exhaustive hunt for the killers.

"We will do this no matter how much time and effort is required," Interfax quoted him as saying.

While Russian secret services have hit targets abroad before, the statement by Putin—himself a former senior spy—was unusually open on the subject.

One independent defense analyst, Pavel Felgenhauer, dismissed it as a public relations exercise, saying that Russia could only act in Iraq with US help.

"We can do nothing ... without the cooperation of the Iraqi secret services and those of the coalition," he said. "This declaration is an obvious imitation of those of (US President George W.) Bush after Sept. 11."

Another analyst said it would be wrong to underestimate the links that Russia had maintained in Iraq since the era of Saddam Hussein, whose 2003 overthrow Moscow opposed.

A Kremlin official told AFP that Russian secret services might not need US help.

"It is not the practice of the secret services to ask permission from anyone before acting," the Kremlin official said. "To suppose that the Americans have information on the kidnappers—they haven't said anything."

Putin's order recalled the killing of former Chechen President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev in Qatar in 2004 in a car bombing that also wounded the victim's 13-year-old son. Two Russian agents were convicted in Qatar of the killings, although Russia insisted they were innocent.

Moscow confirmed the deaths of the four embassy staff after an Internet video purportedly showed two of them being executed. An insurgent coalition led by al-Qaida has claimed responsibility.

The hostage-takers had given Russia a 48-hour ultimatum to pull out of Russia's war-torn province of Chechnya and free Muslim prisoners from Russian jails. Chechen rebels said they had nothing to do with the militant group in Iraq.

The White House has joined other Western governments in condemning the killings.

White House spokesperson Tony Snow said Washington would work with Moscow "to defeat terrorism and bring the perpetrators of this act of violence to justice."

The independent broadsheet Kommersant said Tuesday that the embassy staff may have fallen foul of "simple human weakness" as they had been seized while stopping their vehicle—against embassy rules—to stock up on alcohol.

Russia's lower house of parliament, the Duma, unanimously passed a motion Wednesday criticizing the US-led coalition in Iraq over the killings.

"All the responsibility for the situation in Iraq, including the security of its citizens and of foreign workers, lies with the occupying powers. We are convinced that they could have prevented the tragedy," the lawmakers said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

EILEEN Pudleiner tries to return to her home on Adam's Island in Allentown, Pa., as the Lehigh River starts to flood June 28. AP

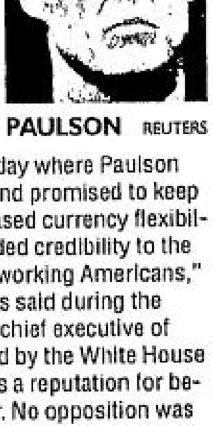
16 die in eastern US floods

WILKES-BARRE, PA—More than 150,000 people fled rising river waters that threatened the old coal-mining town of Wilkes-Barre on Wednesday after floods killed at least 16 people in the eastern United States. With buildings submerged, roads washed out and rivers surging after days of torrential rain, authorities declared emergencies across swathes of New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Travel along the heavily trafficked Eastern Seaboard from Virginia to New York was hard-hit, and rivers threatened to inundate major cities when they crested overnight. *Reuters*

Millions hungry in Africa

JOHANNESBURG—Three million people remained short of food in Southern Africa as a result of poverty and HIV/AIDS despite recent good harvests, the UN's World Food Programme said Wednesday. WFP executive director James Morris said that although the region, plagued by drought in recent years, had now seen bumper crops, it paradoxically made the task of the UN agency more difficult. "Good harvests do not necessarily mean people have enough to eat," Morris said in a statement issued in Johannesburg. "Food and good nutrition are crucial in battling against HIV/AIDS but it is very tough to convince the international community of the complexity and depth of the pandemic in this region, especially when people's misery is masked by green fields and good harvests," he said. Many people in the region will remain dependent on donor assistance because they were unable to grow enough food to feed themselves until the next harvest or because they could not afford to buy food available at markets and shops. *AFP*

New US treasury secretary

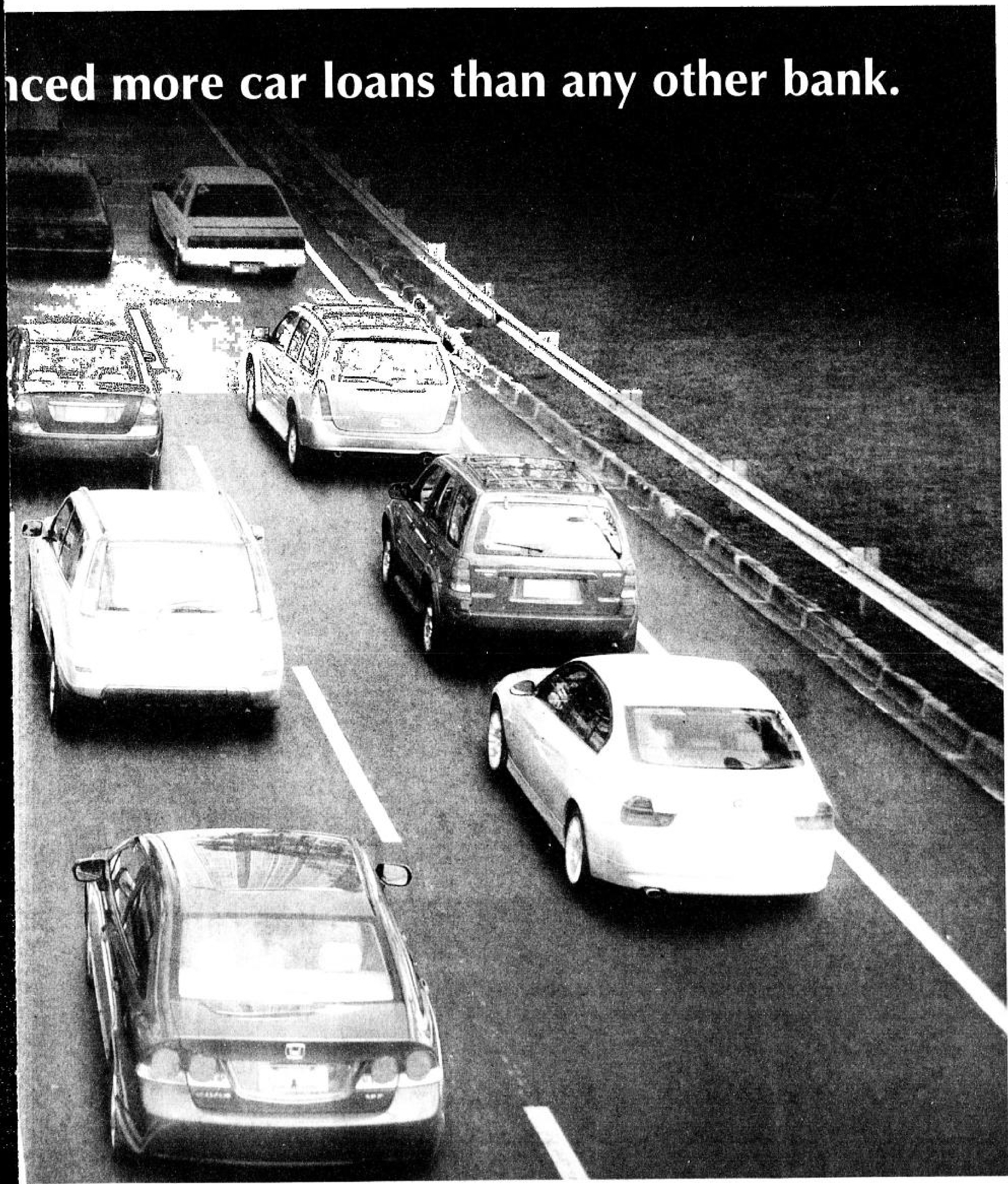


PAULSON REUTERS

WASHINGTON—The US Senate confirmed Henry Paulson as treasury secretary on Wednesday, speeding through the Wall Street financier's nomination to succeed John Snow for the final 2-1/2 years of the Bush administration. The Senate Finance Committee earlier in the day had given its approval after a friendly nomination hearing on Tuesday where Paulson voiced support for tax cuts and promised to keep pushing China toward increased currency flexibility. "He will bring much-needed credibility to the economic message to hard-working Americans," Democratic Sen. Max Baucus said during the Senate debate. Paulson, the chief executive of Goldman Sachs, was courted by the White House for the Treasury post and has a reputation for being a capable crisis manager. No opposition was voiced to Paulson during the Senate debate and his confirmation came on a voice vote. *Reuters*

N. Zealand cool on migrants

WELLINGTON—New Zealand is wary about accepting more workers from poor Pacific Island countries despite increasing pressure from regional governments, Immigration Minister David Cunliffe said Thursday. Pacific Island countries have been calling for Australia and New Zealand to provide a major boost for their struggling economies by accepting more temporary workers. At the same time, employers in Australia and New Zealand also say they have problems filling vacancies, especially for seasonal agricultural and horticultural work. *AFP*



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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel seizes Hamas Cabinet ministers

GAZA—ISRAEL SEIZED HAMAS CABINET MINISTERS IN THE OCCUPIED West Bank on Thursday as it prepared to broaden a military offensive into the northern Gaza Strip, pressuring Palestinian militants to release a kidnapped soldier.

Hundreds of gunmen wielding automatic rifles and antitank weapons took up positions waiting for Israeli forces to open a second Gaza front in the north, a day after tanks and infantry pushed into the southern part of the territory.

A Palestinian security officer said he saw several Israeli tanks roll into northern Gaza before dawn.

His account was disputed by an Israeli military spokesperson who said troops were not yet deployed to begin ground operations in the area, where militants have been launching daily rocket attacks on southern Israel.

In preparation for the offensive, Israel dropped leaflets on northern Gaza, urging residents to avoid areas its troops may target.

In a night-time blitz, Israeli troops seized Finance Minister Omar Abdel-Razeq and eight other Cabinet members, along with nearly 20 legislators of the governing Islamist group in operations across the West Bank, Palestinian officials said.

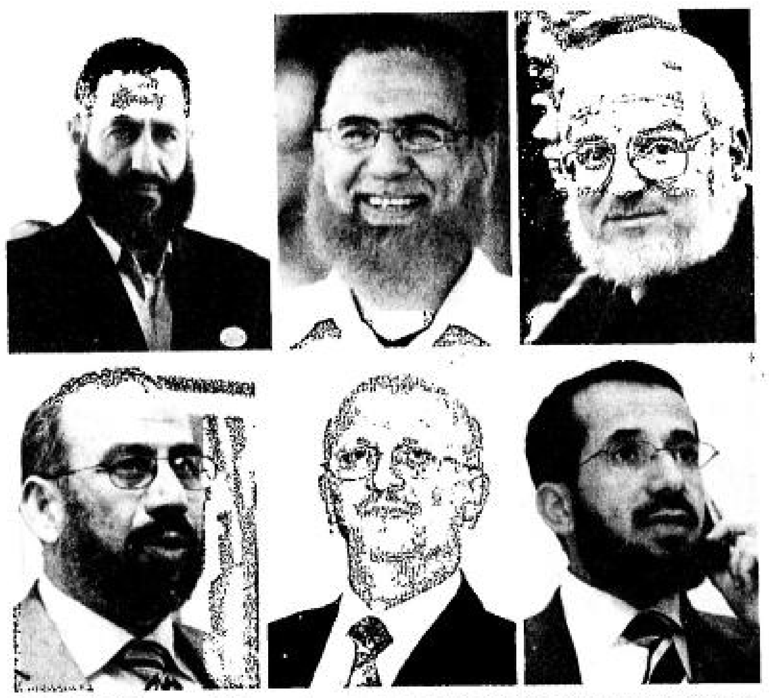
Israel said 64 Hamas officials in all were taken into custody in the West Bank operation.

Israel's foreign ministry spokesperson Mark Regev said the arrests were "due to the fact that Hamas over the last few weeks has escalated terror attacks against Israel."

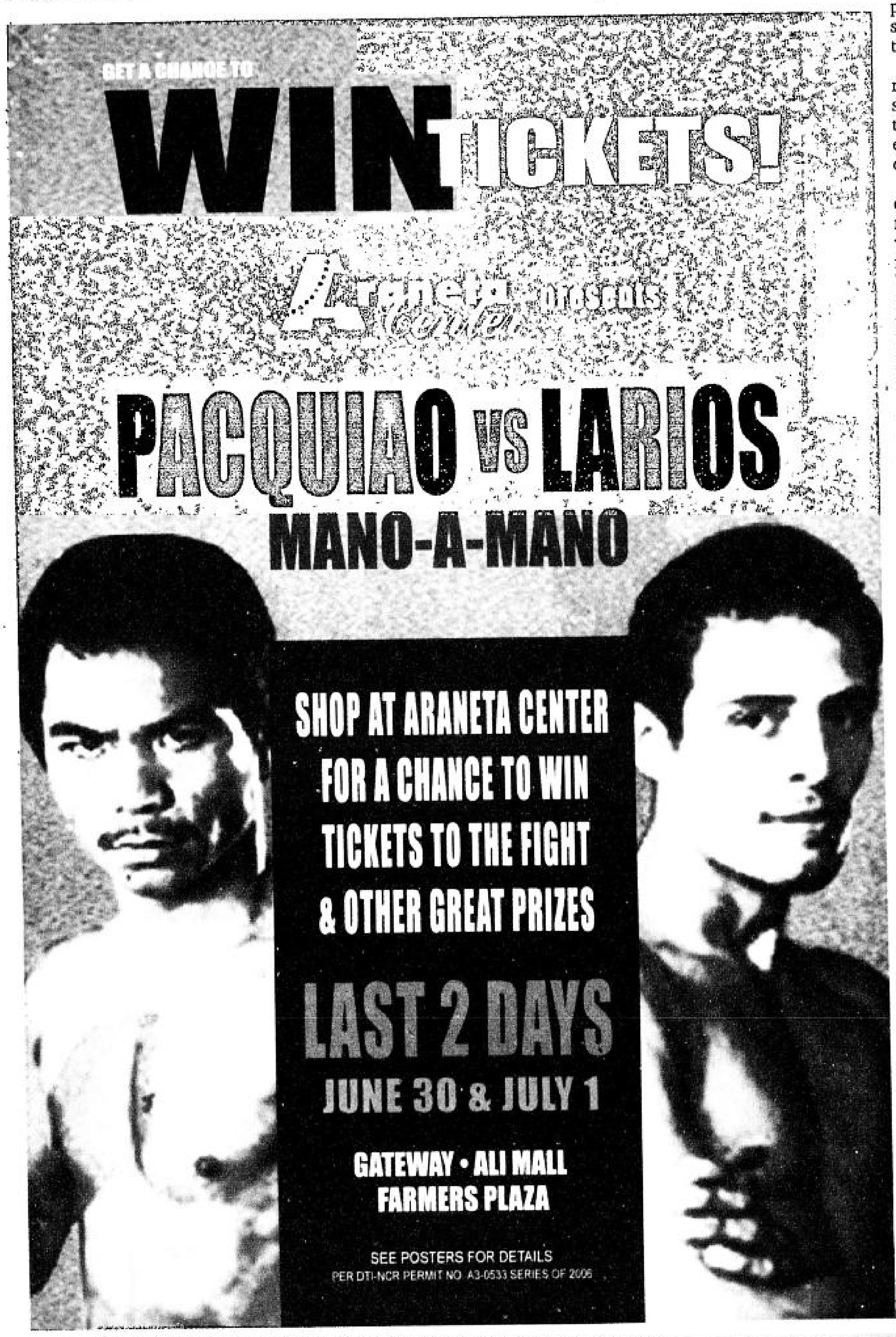
Jacob Dalal, an Army spokesperson, said: "They are not being used as bargaining chips. These are people with terrorist records, with allegations and charges pending against them."

Israel, which quit the Gaza Strip nearly a year ago, has repeatedly said it holds Hamas responsible for the abduction of Corporal Gilad Shalit in a cross-border raid on Sunday and has demanded it ensure his safe return or suffer the consequences.

Israeli leaders have dropped heavy hints that top Hamas men in the Gaza Strip, including Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, could be targets for assassination unless Shalit is returned. *Reuters*



RECENT pictures of Hamas leaders L to R clockwise: Hamas MPs Nayef Rajoub and Mohammed Abu Teir, Palestinian Parliament Speaker Aziz Duweik, Finance Minister Omar Abdelrazek, Planning Minister Samir Abu Eisheh and Jerusalem Affairs Minister Khaled Abu Arafeh. AFP



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Anglican leader sees church schism over gay bishop row

LONDON—THE WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN Communion looked set on Wednesday for a slow-burning schism after its leader proposed a two-tier membership that would exclude the US church for consecrating a gay bishop.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, spiritual head of 77 million Anglicans, laid out the plan after the Episcopal Church declined to repent for appointing a homosexual prelate.

The plan, which would have national churches agree to stay full members or opt for a lesser "associate" status, could also end up isolating liberal Anglican churches in Canada, Scotland and New Zealand that support blessing for same-sex couples.

Media in Britain, cradle of the third-largest family of Christians after the Roman Catholics and Orthodox, saw the Anglican Communion breaking up over the issue of whether members can unilaterally decide on reforms opposed by others.

"It is schism in all but name," the London Times said in an editorial on the plan, which Williams unveiled on Tuesday.

The Communion would probably debate the plan for several years before taking a decision. A schism could create serious financial and property conflicts as factions separate.

The Episcopal Church said it was too early to comment on the Archbishop's proposal but hoped to respond by Thursday.

"We're trying not to jump on this," said Jan Nunley, deputy spokesperson for the US church. "A lot of people have been speaking without thinking on this particular document, and the presiding bishop is preparing a statement that is thoughtful."

The Anglican Communion, a loose federation of national churches, has struggled since 2003 to hold together its liberal minority and the conservative majority—mostly in Africa—vigorously opposed to the naming of gay bishop Gene Robinson. *Reuters*

Iraq captures alleged Shiite shrine bomber

BAGHDAD—IRAQ SAID WEDNESDAY IT HAS captured a Tunisian al-Qaida militant allegedly behind the February bombing of a revered Shiite shrine that unleashed a massive wave of sectarian violence.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, meanwhile, said a number of rebel groups have responded to his reconciliation plan and expressed an interest in joining the political process.

However, he said there would be no dialogue with those who killed Iraqis and targeted US-led coalition troops, foreigners and journalists.

Taking matters into its own hands Russia said it would send secret agents to Iraq to eliminate those responsible for killing five of its embassy workers.

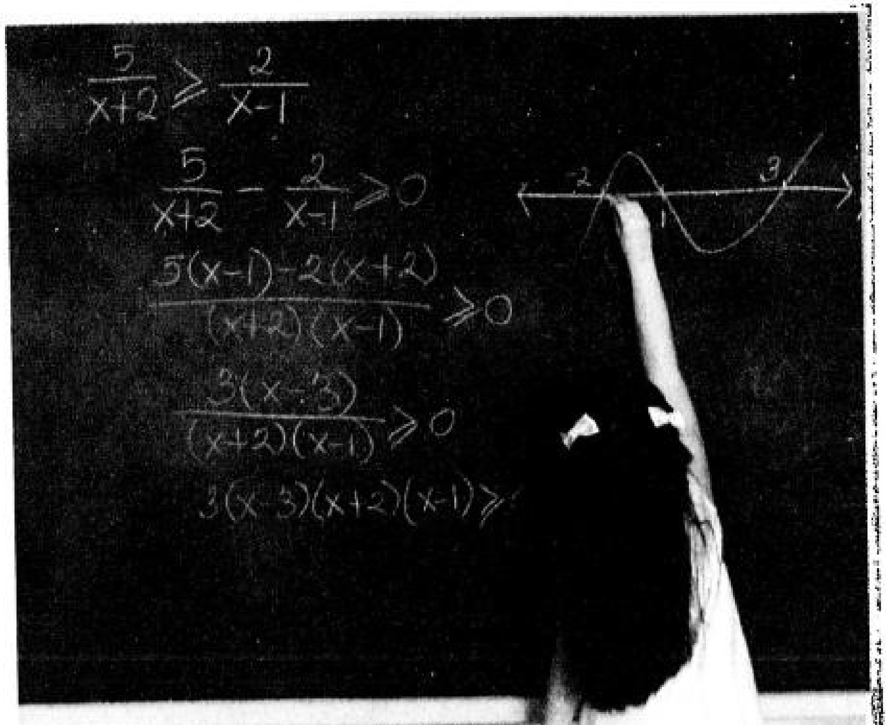
Iraqi national security advisor Muwaffaq al-Rubaie said "we managed to capture Abu Qudama al-Tunisi, a Tunisian, recently and he has taken an active part in blowing up the Golden mosque."

Rubaie said the shrine attack in Samarra, north of Baghdad, was intended "to drive a wedge between Shiites and the Sunnis and to create a sectarian war."

Thousands of Shiites and Sunnis have died in tit-for-tat killings in the aftermath of the bombing of the mosque, the burial place of two imams revered by Shiites.

Rubaie said the mastermind of the Samarra attack, Iraqi Haitham al-Badri, was linked to the previous regime before joining Ansar as-Sunna and ultimately al-Qaida. He said Badri remains at large.

Badri led a cell that included Abu Qudama, four Saudi nationals and another Iraqi, Rubaie said. *AFP*



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'Pacquiao's special'

PACQUIAO: Not once have I thought of myself as a really good fighter

By Francis Ochoa

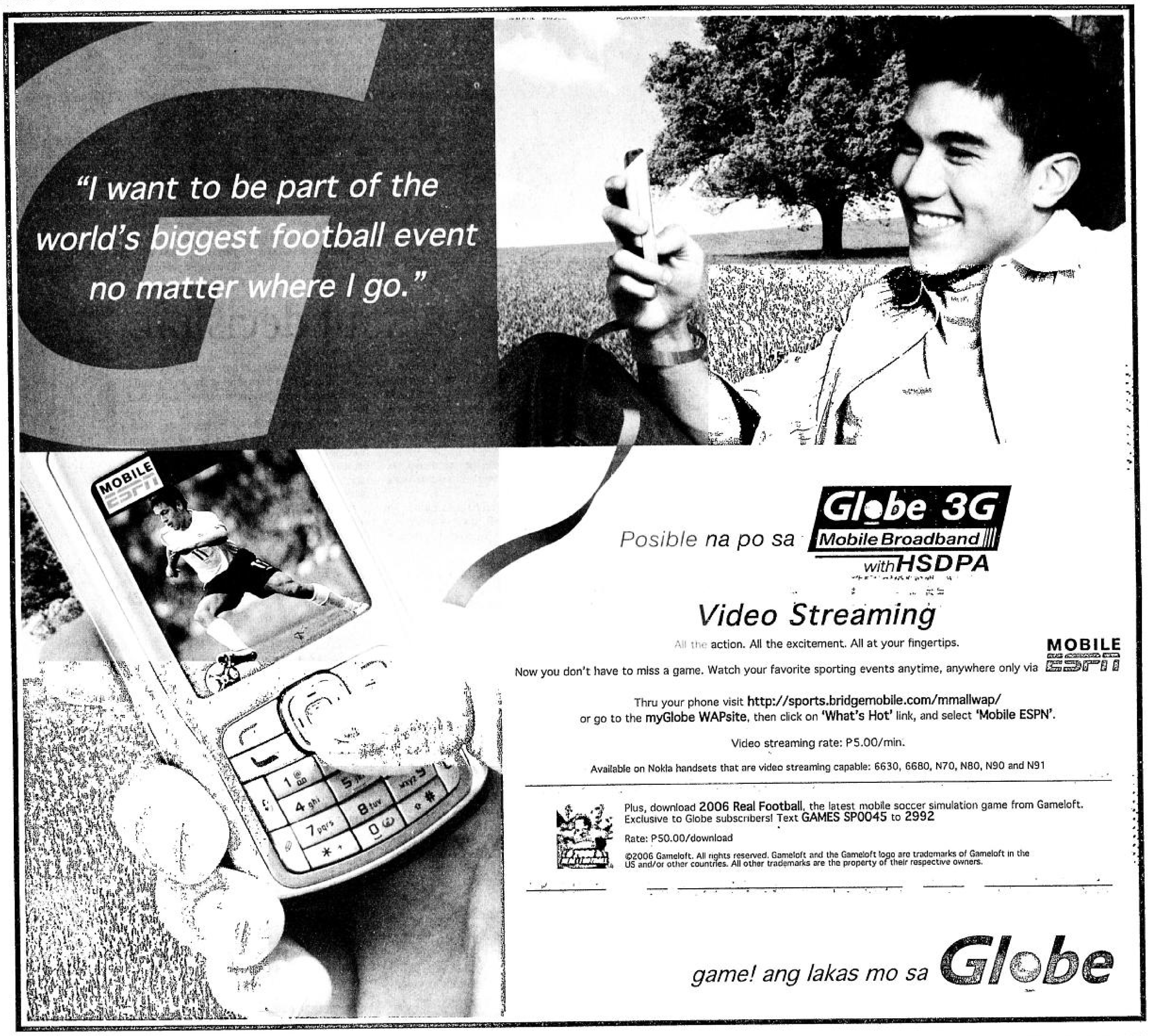
THE MOMENT MANNY PACquiao steps into the ring close to noontime on Sunday, 20,000 or so fight fans will see a 130-lb fighter regarded as not only the best in his country, but perhaps also the best—pound-for-pound—in the world.

His opponent, Mexican Oscar Larios, will see in him a rock-fisted, rapid-punching meal ticket he will need to survive to squeeze out a few more pricey paydays.

His trainer, Freddie Roach, will see in him the greatest boxer he has

PACQUIAO'S/ A28

LARIOS: Out to restore Mexican boxing pride.



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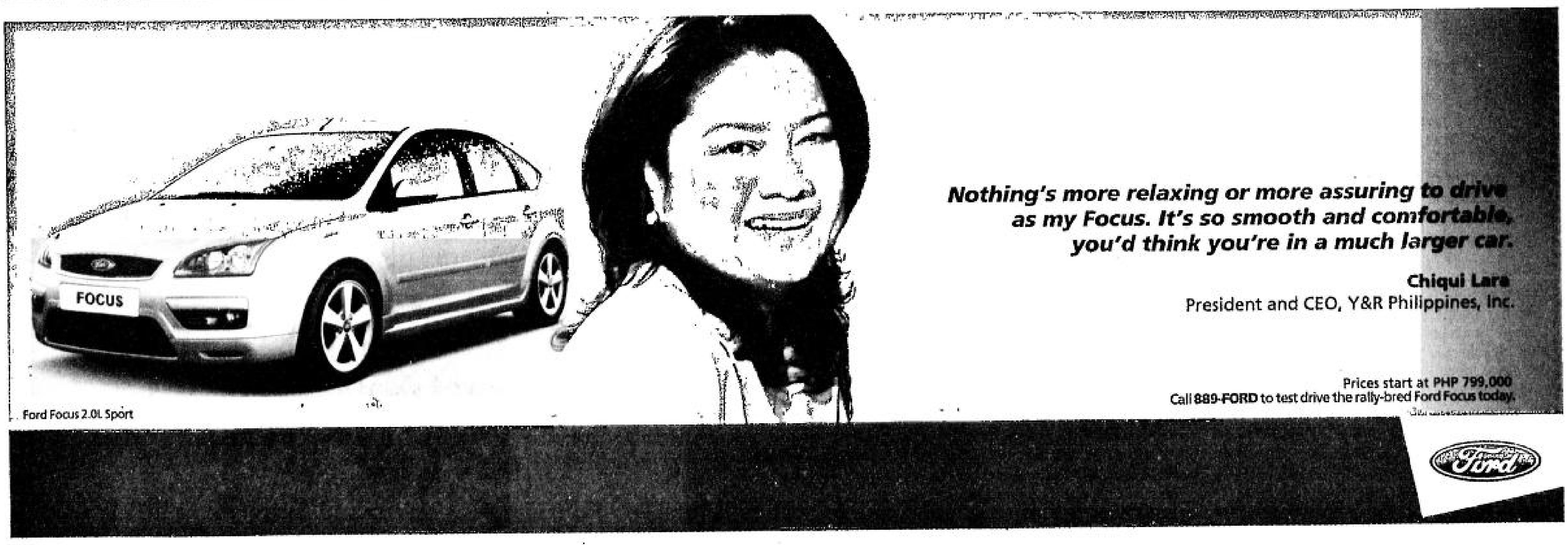

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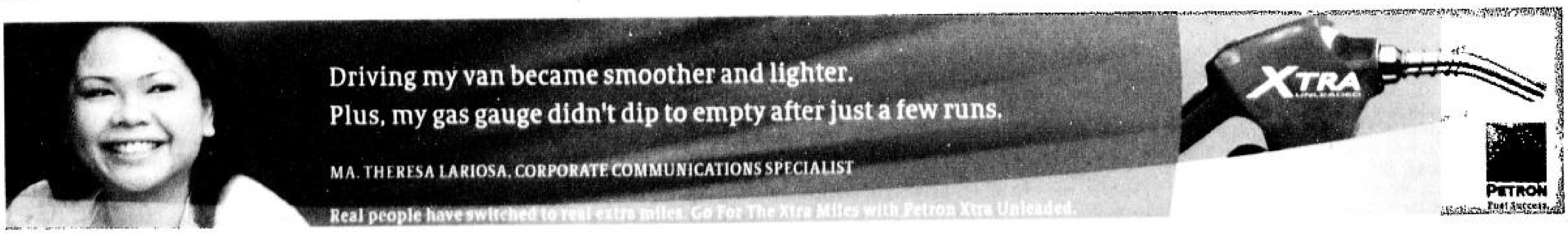

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'Pacquiao's special'

From page A27

handled.

But the Gen. Santos native sees none of that in himself.

"Not once have I thought of myself as a really good boxer," said the 27-year-old Filipino boxing hero in Filipino. The statement drew gasps during yesterday's press conference at the Discovery Suites and had everyone's breathing suspended in anticipation of a punchline that has started to become a trademark in his meetings with the media.

Turns out, Pacquiao, the former baker's errand boy who has secured enough wealth to sustain his bloodline to the nth generation, was serious.

"I'm just another boxer who prepares well and hard for every fight he gets into," he said.

Pacquiao trades mitts with Larios Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum in a fight card billed Mano-A-Mano: Pilipinas contra Mexico. He goes into the match worshipped by everyone, most especially the American trainer credited for his metamorphosis from a fighter looking for the chance to land the left hand that has sent rivals collapsing to the canvas to a boxer who also owns a right cross that has become equally potent.

"Once he puts on those gloves, he turns into a machine," said Freddie Roach, whose boxing knowledge is trumped only by his faith in the Filipino ring icon. "I've trained 18 world champions and Manny Pacquiao's the hardest working fighter I've worked with by far. He's really special."

Pacquiao will go into the fight needing to win convincingly against an opponent who has nothing to lose. Triumphant or not, Larios will take $450,000 to the bank, the most he's ever earned and certainly a lot more than a fighter coming off a loss to Israel Vasquez last December deserves.

At stake is Pacquiao's rematch against Erik Morales in November, the third installment of a fierce rivalry that stands in peril should Larios somehow find a way to upset the Filipino, who totes a 41-3-2 card spiked with 32 knockouts.

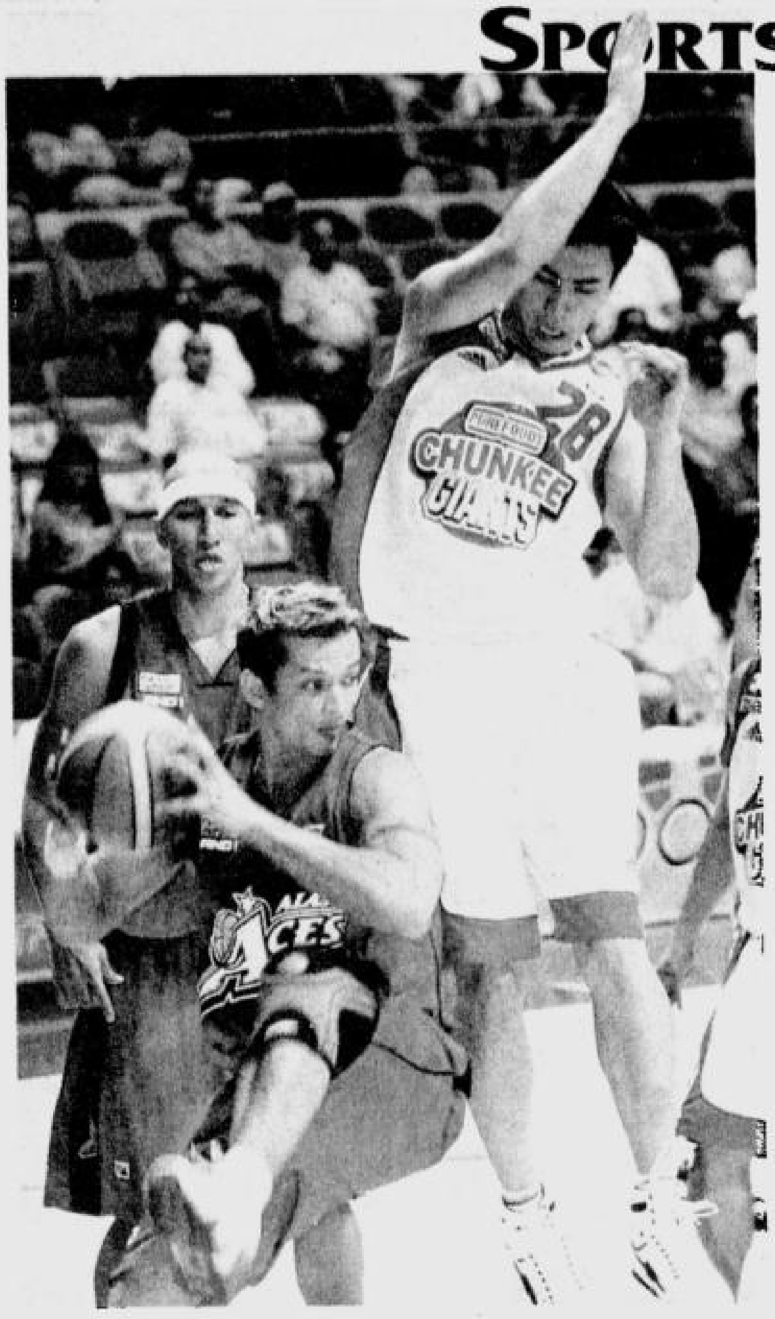
"We have to win," Roach said in a serious tone. "There is no future without a win."

And of all the times to lose, this would be the worst for Pacquiao. On home soil. In a history-rich coliseum still haunted by the cheers of the Thrilla in Manila between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier it held over 30 years ago. In front of compatriots who have revered him as a national hero.

Pacquiao, though, isn't fazed by the pressure.

"I'm excited," he said, then jokingly added: "I want to have a taste of Larios' punches."

But behind the smile is the fighter who has trained hard for the last six weeks in an effort to see Larios off early, well within the six rounds his camp predicted the fight would last.



ALASKA'S John Ferriols tries to squeeze in a shot as Purefoods' Richard Yee defends. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Bulls, Aces aim for the clincher

RED BULL AND ALASKA WILL SEEK TO prevent the series from going the distance as they aim for the clincher in Game 6 of the PBA Philippine Cup semifinals tonight at the Cuneta Astrodome.

A deciding Game 7 would mean giving up the momentum after the Bulls and the Aces moved a game shy of wrapping up the best-of-seven series in a bid to arrange a titular showdown.

Coach Yeng Guiao and the Bulls tangle with the San Miguel Beermen at 4:45 p.m., hoping their go-ahead victory in Game 5 would serve as an inspiration to finish off the top-seeded team of the conference.

For coach Tim Cone and the Aces, they will have to bounce back from their Game 5 debacle after the Purefoods Giants moved closer to pulling off another surprise.

After cutting the deficit to 2-3, Ryan Gregorio and the Giants are again threatening to turn the series upside-down similar to what they did against the Aces in the 2002 Governors Cup Finals.

The Aces grabbed a 2-0 lead but the Giants won the next three games before capturing the championship in seven games.

"It's a big win but we're still down in the series," said Gregorio after his Giants averted elimination with an 85-74 win in Game 5. "There's no reason for us to celebrate until we get the fourth win."

Defense will again be the battle cry of the Giants. The Giants held the Aces scoreless in one stretch while James Yap, Jun Limpot and Kerby Raymundo took care of business on the offensive end.

"It will be a defensive battle until the end," said Gregorio. "We may have the best plan in the world but the bottom line is, we have to execute it."

Desire and motivation, meanwhile, are the most crucial factors for the Bulls as they had successfully used the near-walkout they staged in Game 4 as a motivational tool.

"We used the previous incident as a rallying point. We had to use that as focal point of our desire and motivation," said Guiao after the Bulls netted a total of P507,000 in fine.

"Although the fine is quite huge, I really have no choice but to follow the decision," added Guiao, referring to his P100,000 penalty. "All we want is to show the fans what we can do. We merely want fairness on both sides."

On the technical side, stopping the Beermen from hitting three-pointers will be one of Red Bull's main concerns.

"Our internal defense could hold up against them but if they start hitting those threes, it will pose bigger problems for us," said Guiao. *June Navarro*

GAMES TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
4:45 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer
7:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

Eala stands firm on walkout decision

By June Navarro

PBA COMMISSIONER NOLI EALA STOOD firm that it was a walkout, consummated or not.

"As far as I'm concerned, it was a walkout, regardless of whether it was consummated or aborted," said Eala a day after a former league official criticized the P507,000 fine the PBA slapped on Red Bull.

Former PBA legal counsel Butch Cleofe said Wednesday Eala erred in his decision to heavily fine the Red Bull management in connection with coach Yeng Guiao's order to send his players briefly to the dugout in Game 4 of the Philippine Cup semifinals.

"This is a judgment of the commissioner, pursuant to the constitution of the PBA," said Eala. "This gives the commissioner the prerogative to decide on matters which are not sufficiently and specifically covered by any penalty under the rules."

Sources said Red Bull management would contest Eala's decision in the regular PBA board meeting Tuesday next week.

Cleofe, who helped draft the rules pertaining to walkouts, said the rules were made in such a way that the team which refuses to play may re-think its options.

The ruling on walkouts was made shortly after Añejo Rhum, then representing the La Tondeña franchise, did it in 1990 and drew a P550,000 fine for it, Cleofe added.

A team which deliberately leaves the court would be given seven minutes at the most to return and finish the game. Since the Red Bull-San Miguel game resumed before the scorer declared a forfeiture, a basketball penalty was enough, Cleofe explained.

"He (Cleofe) has not been connected to the PBA in the last couple of years, so he's probably no longer familiar with many of the changes and innovations the league has implemented," said Eala.

EALA

A win would mean lots of money—Larios

By Francis Ochoa

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIGGEST fight of his career isn't lost on Mexican Oscar Larios. It's just buried beneath the bunch of dollar bills that serve as his foremost motivation.

"A victory over Manny Pacquiao would mean a lot of money for me," said the 29-year-old Guadalajara native through an interpreter yesterday, when the two boxers held a press conference at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas, Pasig.

For the people surrounding him, though, Sunday's bout against the Philippine ring icon at the Araneta Coliseum goes beyond the paycheck Larios can command in future fights.

"When you have a big name in front of you and he can send you to the stars [by beating him], you perform better," said Larios' veteran trainer, Rafael Marquez. "I can guarantee you that."

Having witnessed the way Pacquiao manhandled his two more illustrious countrymen in the ring, Larios is also aware of the importance that the opportunity presents to him and to Mexican fight fans aching for payback against the Filipino.

"Manny Pacquiao has beaten the best Mexican boxers so a win would really be significant," said Larios, referring to the Pacman's twin triumphs over two Mexican ring gods—an 11th-round stoppage of Marco Antonio Barrera and a 10th-round knockout of Erik Morales, who never had been previously floored until he stood on the receiving end of Pacquiao's famed left last January.

But Larios couldn't have picked a worse time to run into the Filipino star.

Not only is Pacquiao coming off that huge victory over Morales, but the former one-dimensional fighter is already in the later stages of his transformation into a complete boxing machine.

And, according to trainer Freddie Roach, Pacquiao "is in the best shape of his career and is getting better and better."

Worse, Larios faces Pacquiao at the Big Dome, site of the Thrilla in Manila over 30 years ago, where over 25,000 fans are expected to cram the coliseum and egg on the Filipino.

Right now, though, the crowd is the last item on the worry list of the Larios camp.

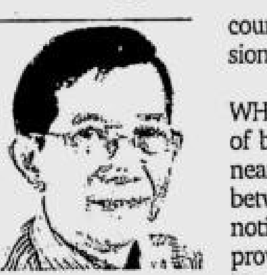
The Larios camp is hoping their man can find a moment in the match to dust off his pet right straight, a weapon that has racked up 38 knockouts in a 56-4-1 card.

And they're praying it will be enough to hammer out an upset to justify Larios' $450,000 paycheck and line up more big-purse matches.

And, on the side, restore Mexican boxing pride.

One-on-one with racing czar Fianza

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

THE NEWLY APPOINTED PHILIPPINE RACing Commission chair, retired Gen. Florencio Fianza, is cool, confident and thoroughly straightforward.

In a recent one-on-one interview arranged by his staff at the Philracom office in Makati City, Fianza admitted to his lack of experience in the sport of horseracing, but stressed he was willing to learn the ropes in order to erase the "misgivings" about him.

"I'm here to do my job and I'll do it the best I can," said the new racing czar, who retired with the rank of Police Deputy Director General (the equivalent of Lt. General in the Armed Forces) on Oct. 20, 2003. "I have no vested interest in the sport," he stressed, "because I'm not a horse owner and I don't even bet on the races."

Appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as Special Envoy on Transnational Crime three years ago, Fianza said horseracing in the country has tremendous potentials. "The 'sport of kings' has a long and historic tradition, yet there's still much room for improvement."

For starters, the 58-year-old Fianza plans to appoint at least two commission people to monitor the work of the board of stewards. "They will not interfere in the stewards' deliberations, but they will serve as my 'watchdogs' as a sort of check and balance. He said more television monitors will be installed at the stewards' quarters to ensure fair, honest and objective decisions. Through the years, public confidence is waning because of whisperings of graft and corruption, of rampant fixing of races. The Philracom chair is ready to face the challenge.

"The racing rules are already there and what is needed is simply to follow and implement them," stressed Fianza, who graduated from the St. Louis University in Baguio City in 1968, majoring in political science and history. He also holds Masters degrees in International Public Policy from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC, specializing in defense and security studies and Engineering Science from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, specializing in transport and traffic management.

On the present state of horseracing in the country, Fianza said, "There's room for expansion. The industry has tremendous potentials."

***

WHO ARE THE REAL WINNERS? The legions of basketball fans are the real winners of the near-walkout that marred last Sunday's Game 4 between Red Bull and San Miguel Beer. One can notice that the quality of officiating has improved a lot ever since Red Bull head coach Yeng Guiao recalled his players to the dugout in frustration over biased and unfair officiating. But Guiao's action proved too costly as the office of PBA Commissioner Noli Eala slapped the team a total of P507,000 in fines: P400,000 on the Photokina franchise; P100,000 on Guiao; P6,000 on player Lordy Tugade and P1,000 on team scorer Edgar Fernandez.

As former PBA legal counsel Butch Cleofe said, "*Mali ang desisyon* (The decision was wrong). There was no walkout because the team (Red Bull) came back in time to play and finish the match. And since it was the coach (Yeng Guiao) who made the order, management should not have been fined." Cleofe, who helped draft the rules pertaining to a walkout, served under former PBA Commissioners Rudy Salud, Rey Marquez, Jun Bernardino and, for a time, Eala. Red Bull leads SMB, 3-2, in the best-of-7 semifinal series.

Ozamiz five tackles Batang Tagaytay July 6

AFTER HURDLING VALENCIA GOLDEN harvest in the southern division playoffs, defending champion Ozamiz has now focused its attention on Batang Tagaytay which it meets in the crossover semifinals of the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship on July 6 in Tagaytay City.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta Shrine cagers are determined to win back-to-back titles in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring, Regent Foods, Spring Cooking Oil, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

But they must first overcome NBC executive vice president and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino's boys in their best-of-three series.

Ozamiz pins its hopes on Marlon Basco and Billy Bansil, while Tagaytay, which knocked out Bacchus/Harbour Centre of businessman Mikeee Romero and coach Lawrence Chongson in the northern semis, is leaning on ex-Ozamiz stars Nino Marquez and Arden Guiyab.

Guiyab, who tallied a career-high 30 points in Tagaytay's clinching win over Bacchus/Harbour Centre, will have his work cut out against Bansil and Basco. But he is expected plenty of support from Rodel Mallari and Jimboy Robillos.

SPORTSWATCH

Pasay Cockpit super derby today

A BIG CROWD IS EXPECTED AT THE PASAY CITY COCKPIT TODAY AS THE SUper big-time 5-cock derby gets going with 90 fights scheduled. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Members of the National Cockers Association, Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines, Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines and Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association will compete. "The winningest gamebirds will be fielded in this derby," said hosts Jet and Joel Fernando of Pampanga. PCC will also present the 20th anniversary 5-cock derby on July 24, 26 and 28, said pit managers Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Roming Vergara.

UBBA 3-cock submission of weights

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IN CONNECtion with San Juan Coliseum's United Backyard Breeders Association (UBBA) 3–cock derby. Entries will be accepted from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Hostilities start at 4 p.m. tomorrow with 80 fights lined up. The derby is backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. UBBA is a group of 50 backyard breeders. Among the group's officers are Ronnie Lacsina, lawyer Jojo Sablan, Abet Lucido and Ben Nadurata. SJC pit manager Pete Rivera said UBBA's summer derby held on April 10 attracted 60 entries. For info, call 725-6563; 725 -5369 and 0917-8041691 (Ronnie).

Hatawan 6-cocker starts tomorrow

ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S HATAWAN SA TAG-ULAN 6-COCK DERBY, A BLOCKbuster cockfest with P3.5 million up for grabs, unfolds tomorrow with more than 150 fights on tap. Host Rolly Ligon said the derby will start at 1 p.m. Entries must be submitted today from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and participants may call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852 –9812 (Shirley or Jonna). Ligon said the bonus prize, a brand-new Honda Civic, will go to the participant with the fastest winning time (based on the championship fight). Entry fee is P8,800 for the five–day event (July 1, 4, 6, 8 and 11).

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—From This Moment (1), Cash Feeder/Macho Man (4), Fanciful (6), Ayan Na Ako/Prince Richard (2)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Condolences (10), Humble Guest (8), Black Peacock (7), Sol Invictus (3), Thereshope (13)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Lady Commander (4), Diestra (5), Adam's Call (1), Sand Peebles (6)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Divine Right (5), Power Dance (4), Fair Urduja (2), Binbong (8), Morning Glory (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Sound of Silence (5), Spanish Drums (1), Real Tough (4), D As In Dixie (6)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Constant Queen (11), Nitty Gritty (12), Simply Gold (10), Ferrari One (5), Aya's Dream (2)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Dixie Dash (5), Reason To Believe (7), My Lady Hannah (1), Hidalgo (3)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Hear Me (2, Ruah (6), Winter's Fury (9), Lord Of All (10), Sloops (1), Carl Gray (8)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Magic Bullet (7), St. Emilion (12), Romblon Rock (3), West Swinger (1), Yonder Girl (2), Golden Africa (9)

CKP TITLE: CKP 168 fund took the Division 2 championship of the Valle Verde 3 Basketball Clinic recently. (Standing from left): JR Naguit, Jonas Guiao (assistant coach), William Ibay, Gener Bernados, Darwin Stapley, Mhark Lopez, Jong Arquero, William Fong (playing team owner), Chestee Ng, Joel Parcotilo (trainer), Ryan Tan, Martin Syjuco, Louie Lao, Brian Cagara, Wilt Fong, Timothy Esparaz and Adonis Tierra (coach). (Seated from left): Paolo Malonzo, Carlo Maynes, DJ Perlas, Jeffrey de Guzman and Ryan Lapid. (Front): Berna Cagara, Macy Fong, Bianca Cagara, Shiela Balbacal, Chelsea Ng and Ailex Madrid (muses) and JV Tierra (mascot).

Basso finally rides out of Lance's shadow

PARIS—IVAN BASSO IS FINALLY out of Lance Armstrong's shadow at the Tour de France. Now the winner of the Giro d'Italia will try to do what Armstrong never did: Win cycling's top two events in the same year.

Basso won last month's Giro d'Italia in his home country and is a favorite to win the Tour de France in July, which would give him the double last achieved by his late compatriot Marco Pantani in 1998.

That was Basso's first year as a pro and the last year before Armstrong rattled off a record seven straight Tour wins. Over time, Basso grew as a challenger, finishing 11th in 2002, 7th in 2003, third in 2004 and runner-up last year.

His Team CSC director Bjarne Riis calls Basso "the rider of the future"—and his first major title victory in the Italian race last month suggests that future may be sooner than first thought.

Basso will have a strong supporting cast: Mountain expert Carlos Sastre, Australian sprint specialist Stuart O'Grady, time-trial aficionado David Zabriskie, plus Jens Voigt, Frank Schleck, Giovanni Lombardi, Christian Vande Velde and US veteran Bobby Julich.

"My team has a lot of confidence in me," Basso said. "I feel good, and I know that everybody is with me."

Basso was dominant in the Giro: He won three stages, placed an impressive second in the individual time trial, donned the leader's pink jersey for 14 days, and seemingly didn't break a sweat on some climbs in one of the hardest editions of the race in years.

His margin of victory—9 minutes, 18 seconds—was the biggest in the Giro since 1965. *AP*

Federer advances

Women's top seeds crush foes

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—If Roger Federer is playing this well now, just imagine how good he'll be by the end of the Wimbledon fortnight.

Even Federer himself admits he's never been in such dominant form so early in the championships, a scary thought for any player hoping to stop him from winning his fourth straight title on the All England Club grass.

"I've had a different kind of draw, where people are expecting me to struggle more," the top-ranked Swiss said. "That I came through that convincing obviously gives me a lot of confidence. Sends out maybe a little bit of a message for the other players."

Federer looked untouchable on Tuesday as he demolished four-time semifinalist Tim Henman, 6-4, 6-0, 6-2, on Centre Court to reach the third round, extending his Open era grass-court winning streak to 43 matches. He dropped only seven games in his previous match against Richard Gasquet, who was coming off a win in Nottingham.

"In beating two such great players so convincingly, I think it definitely gives you the feeling that you're playing very well," Federer said. "I have the feeling I'm playing excellent."

Meanwhile, Venus Williams found herself upstaged on the fashion front by an opponent who introduced the roller-disco look to Centre Court on Wednesday.

Better known for her outlandish outfits than for her tennis talents, American Bethanie Mattek wore a broad bandanna, knee-high socks, short shorts and a tube top over a halter top with two sponsor patches on her chest.

"I was going for kind of the soccer theme," Mattek said.

Mattek failed to dress for success. Williams won the first-round match 6-1, 6-0.

No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo, 2004 champion Maria Sharapova and former French Open champion Anastasia Myskina won their opening matches while losing a combined six games. French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne, Martina Hingis and Nicole Vaidisova advanced to the third round while losing a combined eight games. US Open champion Kim Clijsters didn't hit a ball, reaching the third round with a walkover. *AP*

SHARAPOVA drubs Anna Smashnova, 6-2, 6-0. AP

It's an old World Cup rivalry in quarterfinals

HERZOGENAURACH, GERMANY—THE rivalry between Argentina and Germany is an old one, including two World Cup finals, with one victory each.

And it's bubbling up again.

The teams meet again Friday, when the quarterfinal in Berlin puts Argentine Lionel Messi and Lukas Podolski of Germany on center stage. But for the two young stars, the World Cups that started it all exist only in the books—or the videos.

Messi, who just turned 19, wasn't even born when Diego Maradona led Argentina to a 3-2 win over Germany in the 1986 final in Mexico. Four years later, Germany took its revenge, disposing 1-0 of Argentina to win its third world title.

"I've seen the goals on video," Messi said of the 1986 final.

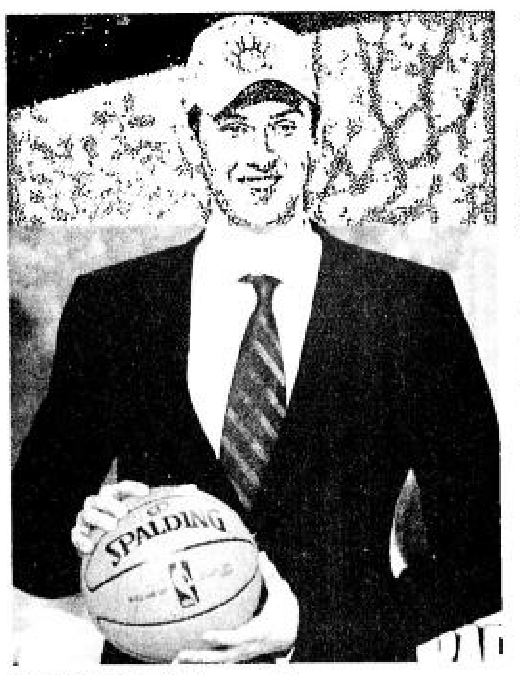
The 21-year-old Podolski, who has scored three goals for Germany in this World Cup, has no real memories of that game.

Argentina was ahead, 2-0, that day with goals by Jose Luis Brown and Jorge Valdano, but things got tight when Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Rudi Voeller scored one goal each to make it 2-2 with only 10 minutes left.

Maradona, an acknowledged admirer of the young Messi, took the ball in the middle of the field and set up Jorge Burruchaga with a precise pass. Burruchaga ran a few yards and scored the winner.

That 1986 World Cup also went down in history as the tournament of two unforgettable Maradona goals, both against England. The first was the infamous "hand of God" goal. On the second, he dribbled through half the English team, widely considered the best goal ever in a World Cup.

Four years later, it was again Argentina vs Germany in a World Cup final, this time in Rome. *AP*



BARGNANI: First overall AP

NBA DRAFT

Raptors tab Italian with No. 1 pick

NEW YORK—THE TORONTO RAPTORS SElected Andrea Bargnani with the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft on Wednesday, hoping the 20-year-old Italian forward can live up to comparisons to Dirk Nowitzki.

The 6-foot-10 forward, the first European player taken first overall, has drawn those comparisons to the Dallas Mavericks' All-Star because of his outside shooting skills.

There were 11 trades Wednesday, likely the product of a draft that lacked star power.

LaMarcus Aldridge of University of Texas went second to the Chicago Bulls and his rights were later dealt to the Portland Trail Blazers for the rights to LSU forward Tyrus Thomas, who had been chosen fourth, and forward Viktor Khryapa.

The Trail Blazers weren't done dealing. They acquired the rights to Randy Foye, taken seventh by the Boston Celtics, along with Raef LaFrentz, Dan Dickau and cash for Sebastian Telfair, Theo Ratliff and a 2008 second-round pick. *AP*

SSC arranges final vs DLSU

GAMES TOMORROW (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
12 nn—Lyceum vs Adamson (for third)
2 p.m.—SSC vs La Salle (best-of-3 finals)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THAI IMPORT JAROENSRI BUALEE FIRED all but one of her points on attacks as San Sebastian turned back Adamson, 25-13, 25-16, 23-25, 27-25, yesterday and barged into the finals of the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

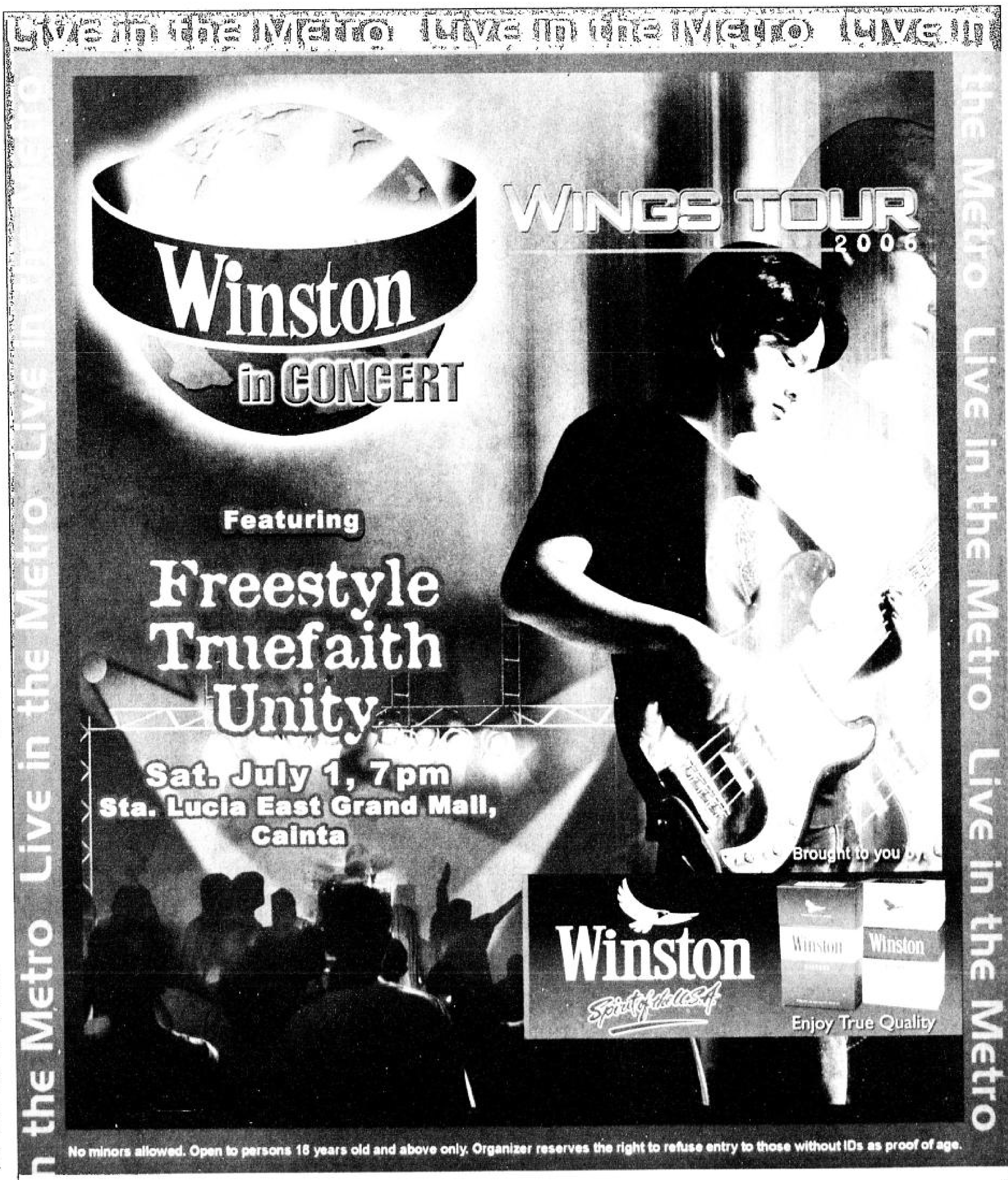
Bualee got the better of her showdown with Adamson's local gunner Cherry Rose Macatangay, breaking the 25-all standoff in the fourth set en route to victory.

The Lady Stags will battle defending champion La Salle in the best-of-three finals starting tomorrow at 2 p.m. at the Blue Eagle Gym. The duel will be between last year's UAAP and NCAA champions.

Bualee's spike was like a dagger thrust to the Lady Falcons' heart, giving them a 26-25 lead. Adamson expectedly went to Macatangay for the equalizer but the 5-foot-11 stunner hammered it wide, sending the Lady Stags in frenzied celebration.

"We didn't do anything special, it was just our mind-set that we needed this win very badly," said San Sebastian coach Roger Gorayeb.

Macatangay refused to let her school down, powering the Lady Falcons to a 19-11 lead from an 8-10 deficit in the third set.



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Altas eye solo lead

AN EARLY LEAD IS WHAT PERPETual has in mind when it takes on St. Benilde even as Philippine Christian and San Sebastian go against each other for a second win today in the NCAA men's basketball at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Vladimir Joe and Khiel Misa will take centerstage for the Altas who began their 2006 season with a 73-67 victory over San Sebastian in the opener. The duo scored 18 points apiece in their opening game, underscoring Perpetual's arsenal which went in full display against the Stags.

But the host Blazers, coming from a sorry loss to defending champion Letran also in the opener, are expected to come out strong with a bid to get back their lost pride in the 2 p.m. match

"I guess we can match up with them," said St. Benilde coach Caloy Garcia. "We have good big men to contain Joe, and at the guard spot I'm sure my players can match up well against Misa."

"What's important is that we have to be consistent with our shooting, we have to improve on that particularly on our free throws."

Garcia was talking about his team's 13 of 58 field goal shooting accuracy against the Knights who took the 65-44 victory.

He is hoping Martin Urra will have his usual numbers and get ample support from Kris Robles, Carlo Manding and Gerald Layug.

In the junior division, defending champion SSC-R and DLSU-CSB shoot for their second straight win as the Staglets meet the debuting PCU Baby Dolphins at 6 p.m. while the Greenies tackle the Perpetual Altalettes at noon.

PCU downed San Beda, 70-66, while San Sebastian edged Mapua, 76-68, last Wednesday.

PCU, hoping to put behind the controversial issue about its sacked coach a day before the season began, will rely on veterans Gabby Espinas, the 2004 Most Valuable Player, guard Jason Castro and big man Beau Belga.

San Sebastian, the last team to win back-to-back titles in the NCAA (2002-03), will rely on forward Jim Viray, who scored 24 points against Mapua, aside from Red Vicente and big man Jayson Ballesteros. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
Noon – Perpetual vs St. Benilde (jrs/srs)
4 p.m. – PCU vs. SSC-R (srs/jrs)

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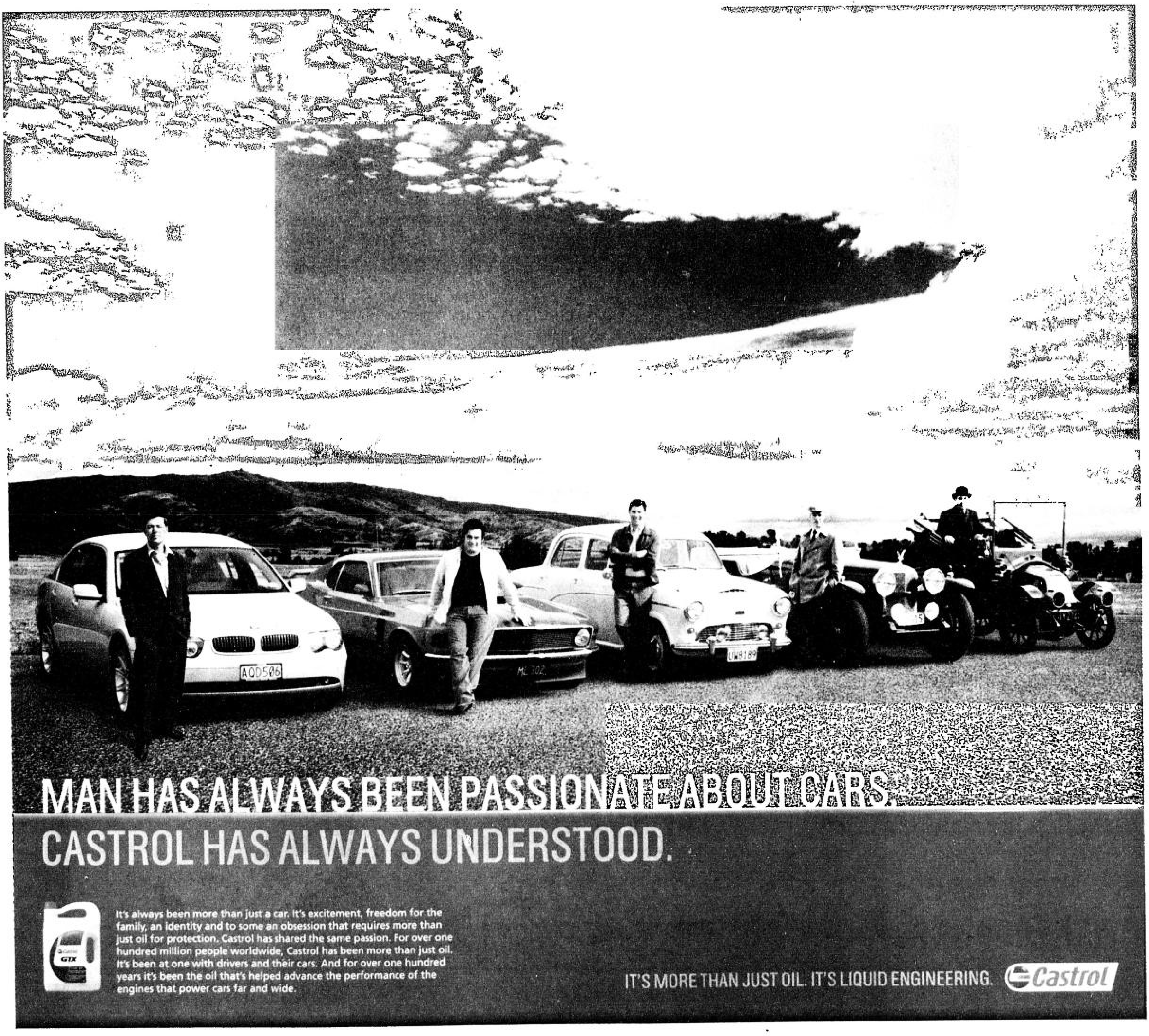
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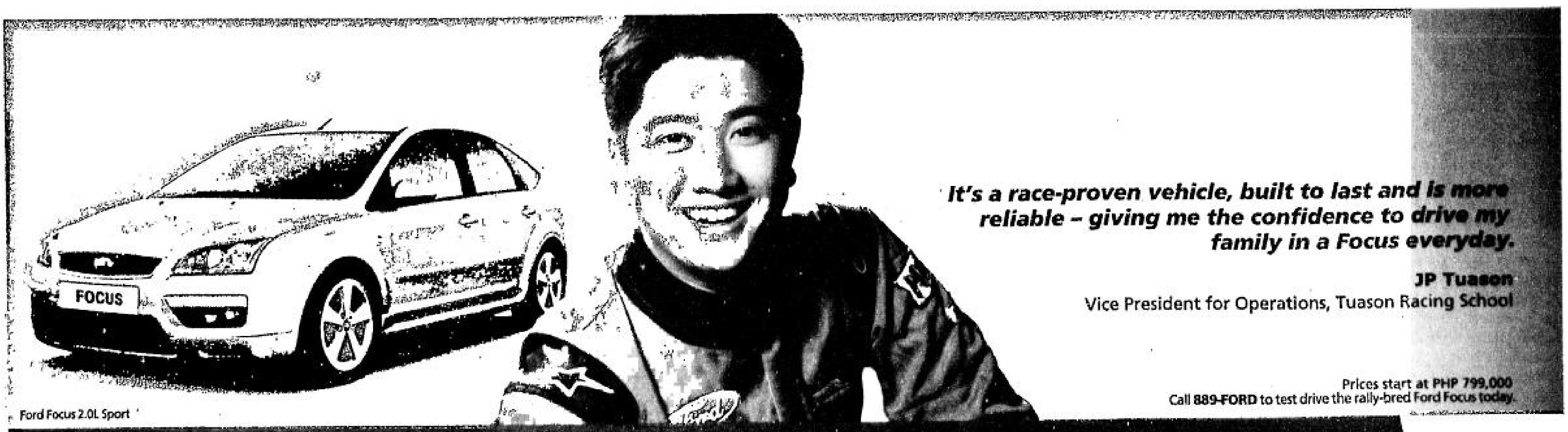
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Depp on kissing Keira, singing in a movie

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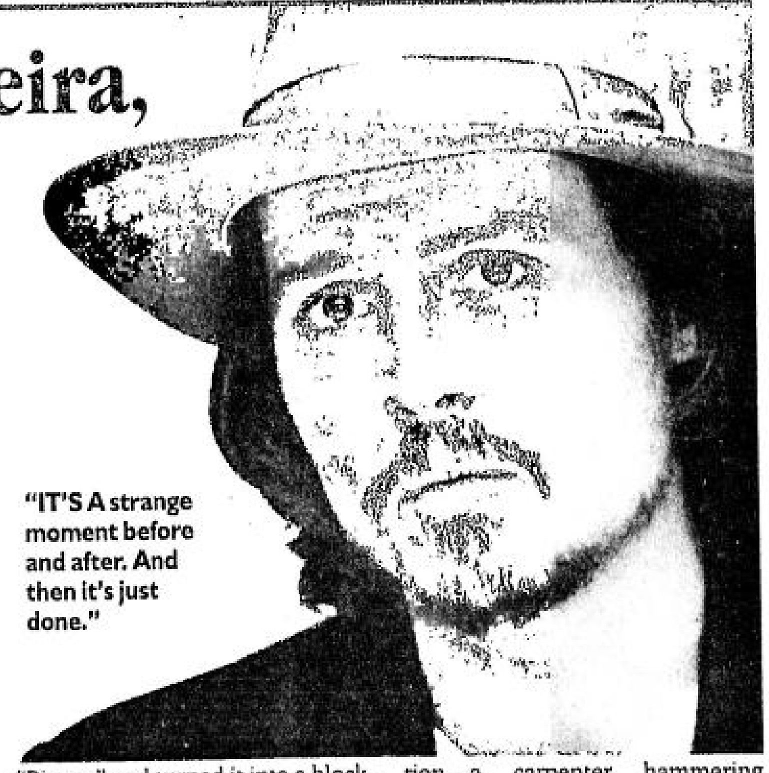

"IT'S A strange moment before and after. And then it's just done."

LOS ANGELES—WHAT was it about **Johnny Depp** that made it easy to forget he was an hour late for our press con?

If this were another star, there would have been angry mumbling or even threats of a walkout. But when Johnny showed up in his trademark fedora a full hour after our scheduled slot with him, all was quickly forgiven.

Should we credit his rakish charm, packaged with that fedora which added a touch of old-world charm to his hip ensemble of sports coat, white tee with tiny holes around the neckline, torn jeans and the ever-present watch chain dangling from his pants pocket—another old-fashioned touch—necklace and bracelets?

(To many women all over the world, it's a no-brainer. They'd forgive him any old time, for anything at all.)

So now, when he smiled, several gold teeth sparkled and enhanced his roguish appeal. He told us he was still wearing them because he had a few more months of filming on "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest."

This cool cat is unfailingly courteous, funny, modest, candid—he answers all questions—and approachable. We've interviewed him several times before, and we're always reminded that the guy is a dedicated husband to his wife, French singer-actress **Vanessa Paradis** (which explains why he is now fluent in French), and father to Lily-Rose, 7, and Jack, 4.

In "Pirates," the second installment in a three-part franchise, he continues to amuse viewers with his Captain Jack Sparrow. Johnny's Keith Richards-Pepe Le Pew creation is one of the most endearing character inventions in modern cinema. (Keith is scheduled to appear as Johnny's dad in the third installment.) As I wrote in last Sunday's column, one of the movie's funny moments is when, as a human shish kabob, he uses his kohl-blackened eyes and not much dialogue to draw laughter.

Moviegoers who loved the first "Pirates" and turned it into a blockbuster for Disney will decide whether this bigger, more expensive sequel is better. Johnny's original cast mates **Orlando Bloom** and **Keira Knightley**, who have since become big stars, are back and so is the director, **Gore Verbinsky**.

"Pirates" fans know that Orlando and Keira's characters are the ones who are romantically involved. So why does Johnny get to lock lips with the actress? We won't say why but read on to find out who, in Keira's opinion, is the better kisser—Johnny or Orlando.

Often answering questions with a smiling glint in his eyes, Johnny made light of a terrible distraction—a carpenter hammering away in the next room. The 43-year-old star, who recently landed on the cover of Newsweek, playfully knocked on the table in front of him to add to the cacophony until a hotel staffer told the unseen carpenter to stop.

In an interview, Keira Knightley said that between you and Orlando, you are the better kisser.

That's funny because I thought Orlando was a great kisser (laughter).

DEPP/ A2-2

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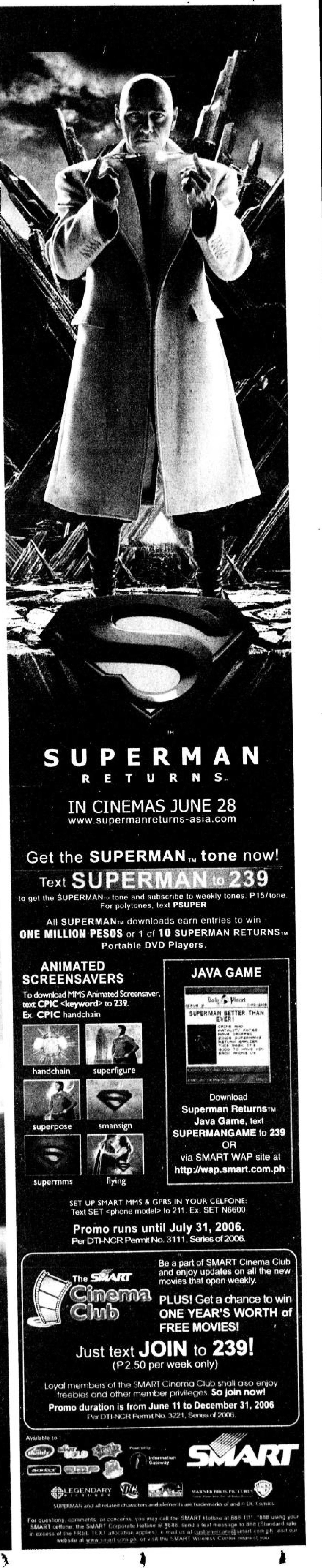

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Depp on kissing Keira, singing in a movie

From page A2-1

Can you describe the mood when you and Keira kissed?

It is always awkward when you are kissing someone you are not romantically involved with. It is acting and it is fake. Kissing scenes are always strange to me, especially since Keira is twentysomething years younger. But she was a good sport. We did what we had to do ... and moved on to the next thing. You can almost compare kissing scenes to stunts. It is a strange moment before and after. And then it is just done.

Jack Sparrow makes a deal with the devil to get possession of his ship. Have there been situations that drove you to make a pact with the devil to get a job?

Yes, I have thought that, maybe somewhere along the line, unconsciously, I did that. But ... I think I was too dumb to do that. That would have been a shortcut and I am not capable of doing that.

Was it with regard to a TV show?

When I was doing "21 Jump Street," it certainly felt like everything was out of control. They created this image, this monster, and they were selling it. It felt about as close to making a pact with the devil. I wouldn't go into that kind of thing again.

Were you happy to be back in character as Captain Jack Sparrow in this sequel?

When there was talk of doing this sequel, I was really happy because I didn't feel like I had explored all the possibilities of Captain Jack in the first one. I didn't want to say goodbye to him. I wanted to spend time with him again. Earlier I was asked if I watched "Pirates 1" to get into character as Captain Jack again. I didn't. I avoided it as much as I could although my kids watch it time and again. It was simply just strapping back into the costume and going through the process again, stepping on the set and seeing all the familiar faces, the same crew.

Are you willing to explore Captain Sparrow in a fourth "Pirates" movie?

If the scripts are good and they are still stimulating, still have something entertaining for the audiences, I would keep going. For me, Captain Jack is just endlessly entertaining to play.

Your teeth are different in every movie, from this one to "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" to "The Libertine."

It upsets my dentist but I do try (laughter).

Do you eat with the gold teeth?

No, that's when all my teeth come out (laughter). The teeth did come out when I had to do "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "The Libertine" and "Secret Window." The gold teeth came back for "Pirates 2 and 3." I still have a few months of filming on "Pirates 3" so I haven't gone through the process of yanking the gold teeth out.

Why do you wear a beard even when you are not doing the "Pirates" movies?

It's mostly because if I shave, it would take me months and months, like half a year to get this beard back (laughter). This is like a full beard for me. That's it—seven hairs here, three over there and this patchy stuff and that's it. If I shave, I have to glue some hair on and that wouldn't work.

This movie was shot in the Bahamas, where it is hot and steamy. Did everybody on the set shower daily as they were supposed to do?

I've never been asked that question before (laughter). I am determined to answer it, and properly. Let's see, the idea of personal hygiene ... Once you get off work and you've had all these make-up, you have to virtually hose yourself down. From what I could tell, the majority of the cast and crew had the similar feeling (laughter). However, you do encounter the foul smell occasionally. You either get past it or you hope that the wind will change direction any second (laughter). In the movie, everybody looks like they stink but in fact, they didn't.

How does your fame put extra pressure on your family life?

My kids have a super normal life. They go to school and play with their friends. Okay, maybe they get to go to Disneyland a little more often than the other kids. But that is part of the gig (laughter). Although my mom seemed to be proud when she saw me on the cover of Newsweek. I myself was shocked and am still shocked.

How often do you and your family get to enjoy your island in the Bahamas?

We get there as much as possible because it is a necessary part of the balance. You have to balance a world of being here in Hollywood and in the island where there are no telephones, no cars, no street lights, no noises. It is just nature and the sea, the wind, the sun. It brings things down to its absolute basic level.

And how are the kids?

My daughter is exiting the Barbie period and moving into fashion accessories. She wants to watch big-girl television shows. It is frightening. My boy Jack has discovered super heroes so he is now going into the area of comic books and I happen to be pretty good in that area.

How do you as a couple balance it so Vanessa can also work as a singer and an actress?

She has been able to do some films that she wanted to. She still plays music, writes, and does demos. She is working on an album right now that is really promising. It is beautiful. There are a couple of tracks there that turn me into an infant, all teary-eyed.

The toughest time was when Lily Rose was about two and Vanessa had to go on the road for a concert tour. We didn't have a nanny so I was tour daddy (laughter). I must have watched "The Wizard of Oz" with Lily Rose 7,000 times. It was a great challenge as a dad to entertain a 2-year-old—great education, and I got through it.

How does music touch you?

For me, the effect of music is immediate. There are certain songs I hear that take me right back to a very specific moment in my life. There are certain songs that I can't listen to because they remind me of say, the birth of my daughter or son. I can't listen to them because I will burst into tears.

How comfortable will you be in one of your future projects, a film version of the musical, "Sweeney Todd"?

Tim Burton and I have had our discussions about it and everything is looking good. It is a great opportunity to work with Tim again. It will be our sixth movie together. As far as my singing is concerned, I don't want to shock anyone but I am not a singer (laughter). I would never ever claim to be a singer but I am willing to give it a shot, to see if it works. It is important to try stuff.

Have you started musical training?

I grew up as a guitar player. I was a musician for most of my life. I am musically inclined and I am not tone deaf. At least, not yet.

Some time ago, you said Marlon Brando suggested that you play Hamlet. Have you thought about it?

It will either be very soon or never because I will get a little long in the tooth to play Hamlet. Marlon did say that to me. He wanted me to skip movies for a while. Take a year off. So his voice keeps ricocheting in my head. Marlon told me that by the time he had gotten to the point where he thought that maybe he could do Hamlet, it was too late. So he told me to do it while I can, don't let it be too late. And I would like to do it. It is one of the more frightening ideas ever but I think it would be great to do Hamlet in a very small theater. I could just do it in my house for the family (laughter). Annoy the children.

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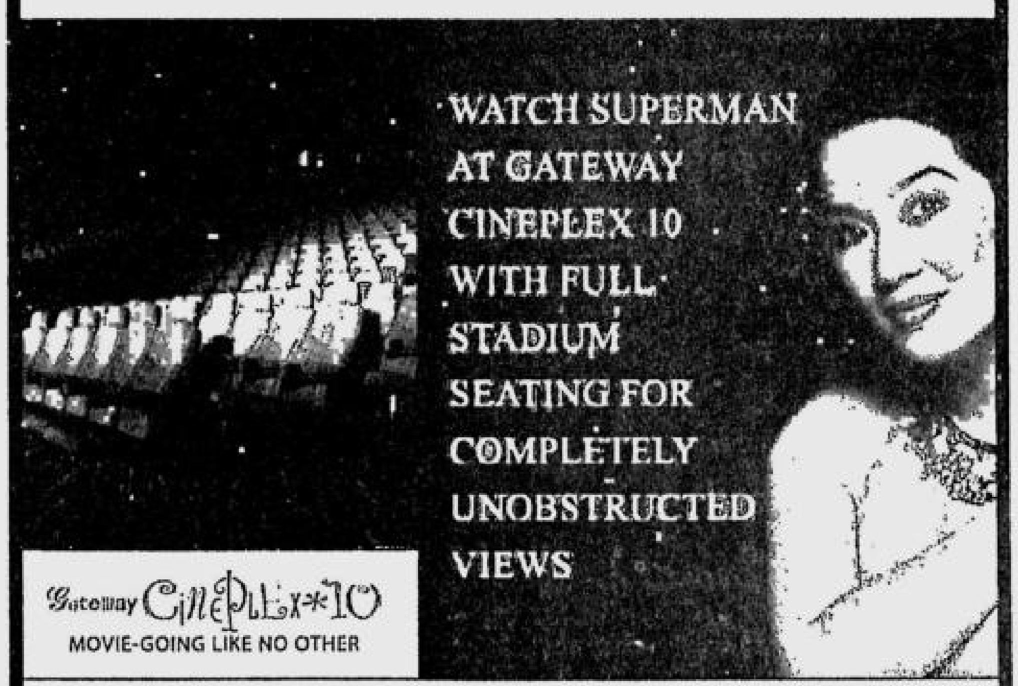

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PLATINUM CINEMA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:40 / 2:50 / 6:00 / 9:10

Ali MALL 5

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:15 / 3:10 / 6:05 / 9:00
SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:00 R2 / 2:35 / 5.30 / 8:25
SUPERMAN RETURNS
2:05 R4 / 2:00 / 4.55 / 7.50
4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8.45
THE NUN
12:10 / 1:55 / 3:40 / 5:25 / 7:10 / 8:55
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

LOG ON TO WWW.ARANETACENTER.NET FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

KATRINA Halili

Eula Valdez: I must have done something really good

RUSHES

WOULD YOU BELIEVE SHE'S 38?

Eula Valdez—who's been Amor Powers, ZsaZsa Zaturnah and many other quaint characters in between—isn't finished reinventing herself. "I want to design clothes, direct movies, skydive, race cars ... life is so short, we should make the most of it."

She shares her 13 secrets for happiness as Marie Claire's cover girl for July. Here's one: "I believe in karma, in seeing the bigger picture. I must have done something really good in the past."

We take it she's ... happy.

2 years in a row

Katrina Halili has been named Sexiest Woman by FHM mag. That's two years in a row that she's been on the list. Last year's title holder, Angel Locsin, has slipped to second place. We spotted Iwa Moto's name in the top 17. When does a girl become a woman?

Not so Lucky Me

An e-email from PR consultant Susan Joven called our attention to an item in this section on June 1, which named Nikki Gil, based on an information dispatch, as the newest endorser of a brand of Lucky Me instant noodles.

Susan clarified: "We contracted [Nikki's] services for publicity only—celebrating people on the go ... who are able to balance school, work, family, and self. An advertising endorsement was not part of our agreement with her."

More for Sam

This one, we're sure, is an advertising endorsement: Sam Milby singing "There's More," the jingle for Centrum multi-vitamins.

Yes, singing.

"I'm an everything person," Sam says. "I just want everything. I want to be a professional motocross racer, I want to do charity work. I want to be known as someone who makes people happy."

Got it.

Honeymoon begins

SYDNEY, Australia— Australia's hottest celebrity couple, Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban, jetted out of Sydney on Monday, likely bound for a secluded honeymoon getaway on the golden sands of the South Pacific.

The Oscar-winning actress exchanged vows with the Grammy award-winning country music star in a tearful, candlelit ceremony overlooking the Pacific late Sunday.

The newlyweds kept a low-profile Monday, emerging only to have lunch with family at a luxury waterfront hotel. Kidman, 39, appeared relaxed in a black and white dress topped with a black cardigan, while the 38-year-old country music superstar wore jeans and a light blue T-shirt.

The pair were spotted boarding Kidman's private jet on Monday evening. They have been tight-lipped about their immediate post-wedding plans, but local media have widely tipped either Fiji or Tahiti as the most likely honeymoon destinations. *AP*

Goldie's daughter

ANGEL Locsin

NEW YORK— Kate Hudson knows it can be hard for some people to separate her from her famous mom, Goldie Hawn.

"You can feel it when you walk into an audition," she told Vogue for its July issue. "I would always do the best I could, but I knew that if I was having an off day there would have been people sitting there whispering 'Goldie Hawn's daughter is horrible. She should really choose another career.' " AP

Nokia N70 Scoops Top Industry Accolade

World's Top Selling 3G Device Named 'Best Mobile Entertainment Handset'

Espoo, Finland – Nokia today announced that the Nokia N70 multimedia computer has been awarded 'Best Mobile Entertainment Handset' at the annual Mobile Entertainment Awards, the Meffys. The device beat off stiff competition to take the top spot at this industry awards ceremony held in London.

The Nokia N70 perfectly illustrates Nokia's commitment to offering powerful, all-inclusive handsets that aid people in their daily lives. In addition to a range of smartphone features including web browsing and email, it is also a pocketable entertainment device. Users can take high quality photos with its 2 megapixel camera, listen to music on the integrated digital music player and stream video over 3G.

The Meffys, organised by the Mobile Entertainment Forum, are the industry's official benchmark for measuring success and rewarding innovating in mobile entertainment. The top entries in each category were chosen by a panel of independent industry, media and analyst experts and the winners were announced by top DJ Pete Tong at a ceremony coinciding with the Mobile Entertainment Market (MEM) 2006 in London in May.

Patrick Parodi, MEF Global Chair, commented: "The 2006 Meffys have been a fiercely contested event with a wealth of high quality entries. The winners reflect the hot trends which will be shaping and driving the mobile entertainment industry forward in the coming year."

"This award is a fantastic endorsement for the underlining strategy behind the Nokia Nseries in terms of offering one single device for consumers to enjoy entertainment whenever and wherever they want," commented Tapio Hedman, senior vice president, marketing, Multimedia, Nokia. "The Nokia N70 is the top seller within the Nokia Nseries range of multimedia computers and we are delighted that the industry has recognised the full range of entertainment features it offers consumers."

For further information on the Mobile Entertainment Awards 2006, please visit www.m-e-f.org

ADVT

NOKIA
Nseries

See new.
Hear new.
Do new.
N90
Gallery
Options
NOKIA
N91
All Tracks
Andromeda
According to her
Barcelona
Don't wait for me
Laughing dog
N80
N70

Enjoy 3G with the highly-acclaimed Nseries multimedia computers – Nokia N70, N71, N80, N90, and N91.

Experience video calls, MP3 downloads, high-resolution streaming and internet browsing at remarkably high speed. With all these winning features, there is hardly any doubt why Nokia leads the way in 3G.

Nokia N70
"Editors' Choice Award"
-CNET Asia

Nokia N80
"Best Mobile Imaging Device in Europe 2006"
-Technical Image Press Association

Nokia N90
"European Media Phone of the Year 2005-2006"
European Imaging and Sound Association

Nokia N91
"Mobile Innovation Awards 2005"
-Laptop Magazine

Nokia Nseries
See new. Hear new. Do new.

3G MOBILE BROADBAND | NOKIA Connecting People
www.nokia.com.ph

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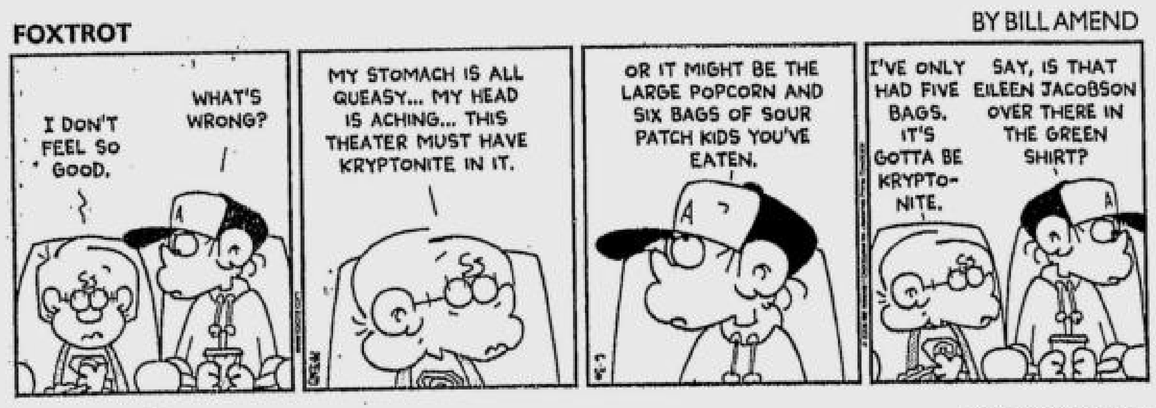
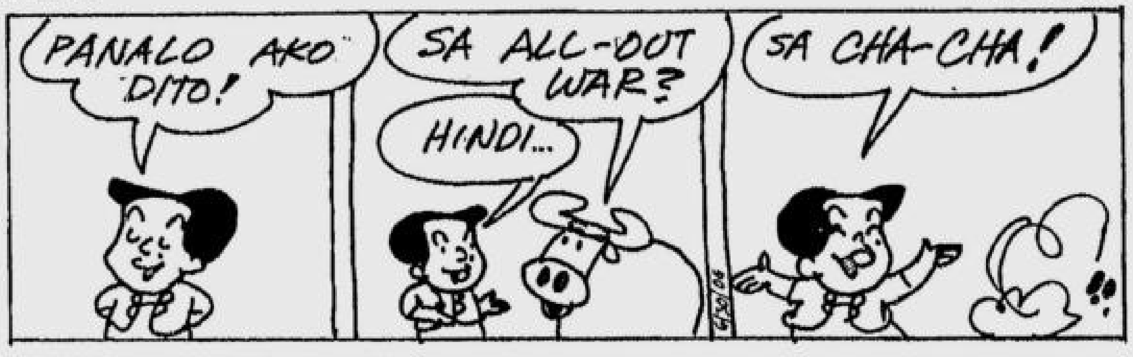
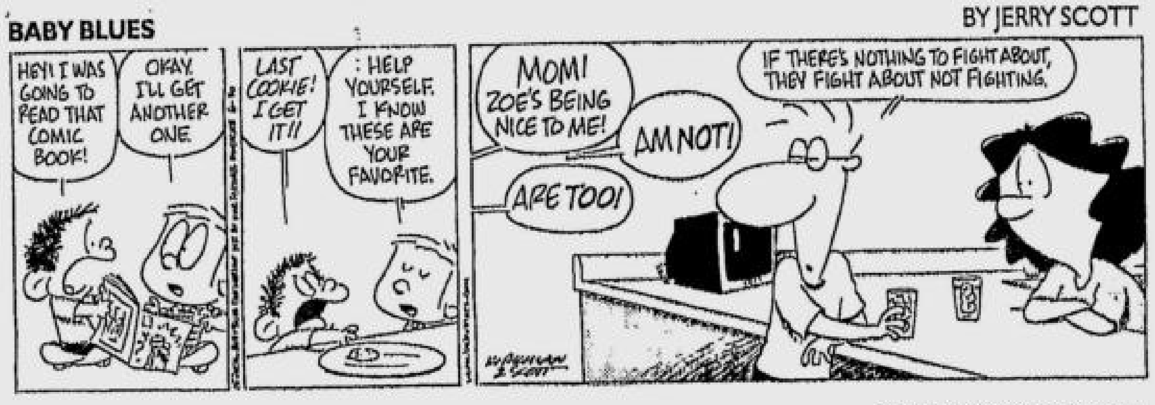
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.
WHAT'S WRONG?
MY STOMACH IS ALL QUEASY... MY HEAD IS ACHING... THIS THEATER MUST HAVE KRYPTONITE IN IT.
OR IT MIGHT BE THE LARGE POPCORN AND SIX BAGS OF SOUR PATCH KIDS YOU'VE EATEN.
I'VE ONLY HAD FIVE BAGS. IT'S GOTTA BE KRYPTONITE.
SAY, IS THAT EILEEN JACOBSON OVER THERE IN THE GREEN SHIRT?

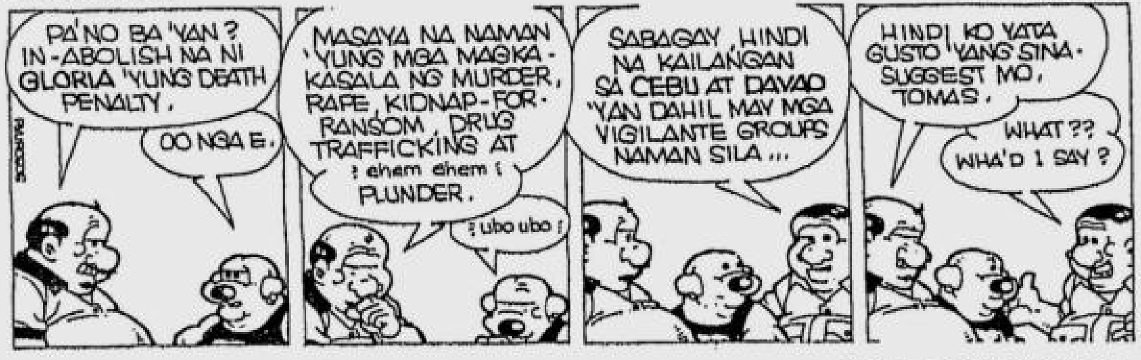
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


PANALO AKO DITO!
SA ALL-OUT WAR?
HINDI...
SA CHA-CHA!

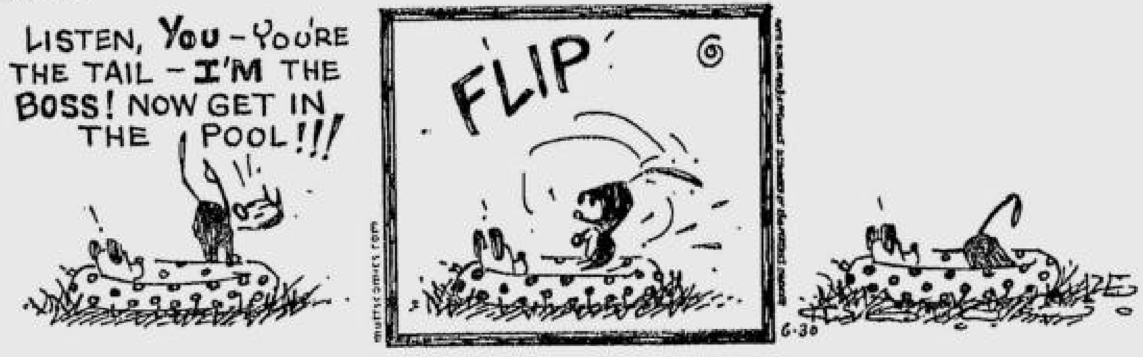
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HEY! I WAS GOING TO READ THAT COMIC BOOK!
OKAY. I'LL GET ANOTHER ONE.
LAST COOKIE! I GET IT!!
: HELP YOURSELF. I KNOW THESE ARE YOUR FAVORITE.
MOM! ZOE'S BEING NICE TO ME!
AM NOT!
ARE TOO!
IF THERE'S NOTHING TO FIGHT ABOUT, THEY FIGHT ABOUT NOT FIGHTING.

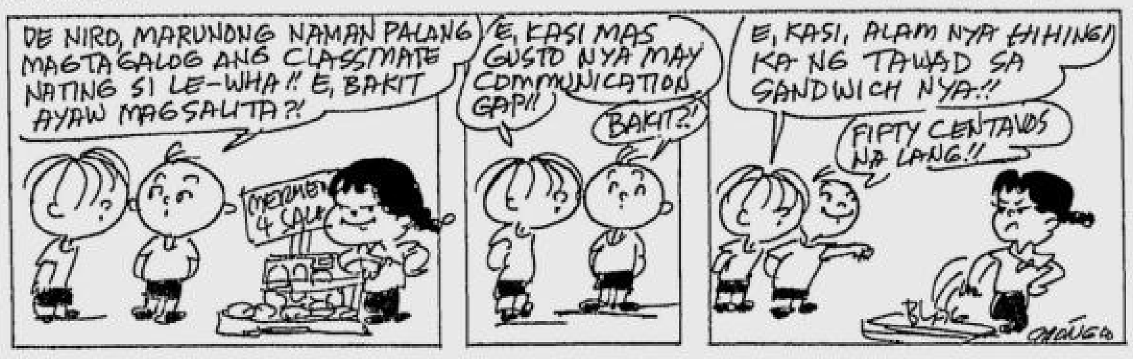
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PA'NO BA 'YAN? IN-ABOLISH NA NI GLORIA 'YUNG DEATH PENALTY.
OO NGA E.
MASAYA NA NAMAN 'YUNG MGA MAGKA-KASALA NG MURDER, RAPE, KIDNAP-FOR-RANSOM, DRUG TRAFFICKING AT ; ehem ehem ; PLUNDER.
; ubo ubo ;
SABAGAY, HINDI NA KAILANGAN SA CEBU AT DAVAO 'YAN DAHIL MAY MGA VIGILANTE GROUPS NAMAN SILA...
HINDI KO YATA GUSTO 'YANG SINA-SUGGEST MO, TOMAS.
WHAT?? WHA'D I SAY?

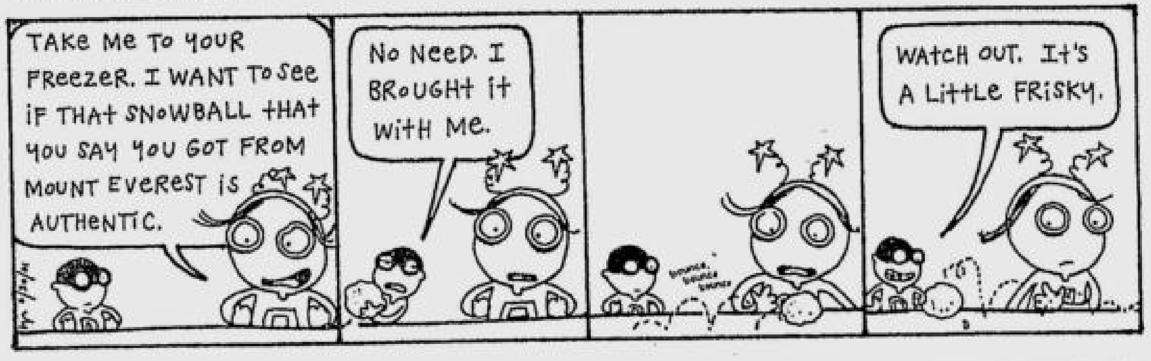
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LISTEN, YOU - YOU'RE THE TAIL - I'M THE BOSS! NOW GET IN THE POOL!!!
FLIP
6-30

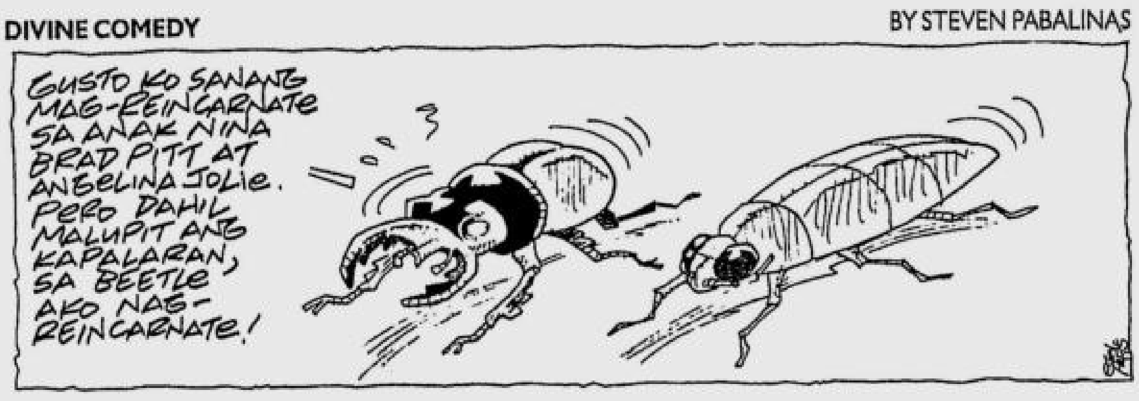
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, MARUNONG NAMAN PALANG MAGTAGALOG ANG CLASSMATE NATING SI LE-WHA!! E, BAKIT AYAW MAGSALITA?!
MERIENDA 4 SALE
E, KASI MAS GUSTO NYA MAY COMMUNICATION GAP!!
BAKIT?!
E, KASI, ALAM NYA HIHINGI KA NG TAWAD SA SANDWICH NYA!!
FIFTY CENTAVOS NA LANG!!
BLAG

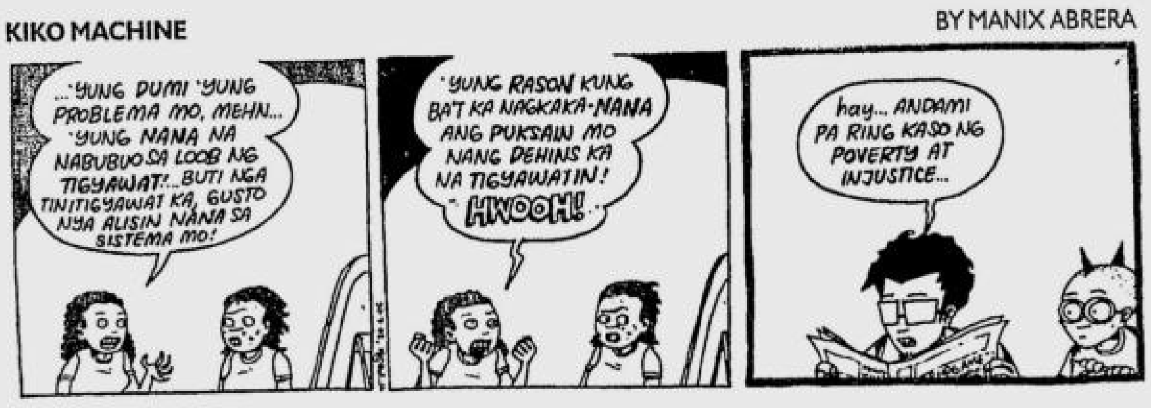
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TAKE ME TO YOUR FREEZER. I WANT TO SEE IF THAT SNOWBALL THAT YOU SAY YOU GOT FROM MOUNT EVEREST IS AUTHENTIC.
NO NEED. I BROUGHT IT WITH ME.
WATCH OUT. IT'S A LITTLE FRISKY.

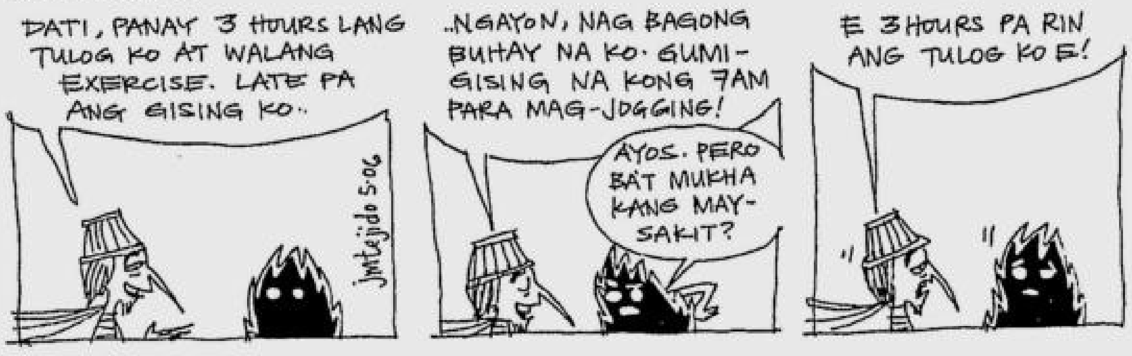
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


GUSTO KO SANANG MAG-REINCARNATE SA ANAK NINA BRAD PITT AT ANGELINA JOLIE. PERO DAHIL MALUPIT ANG KAPALARAN, SA BEETLE AKO NAG-REINCARNATE!

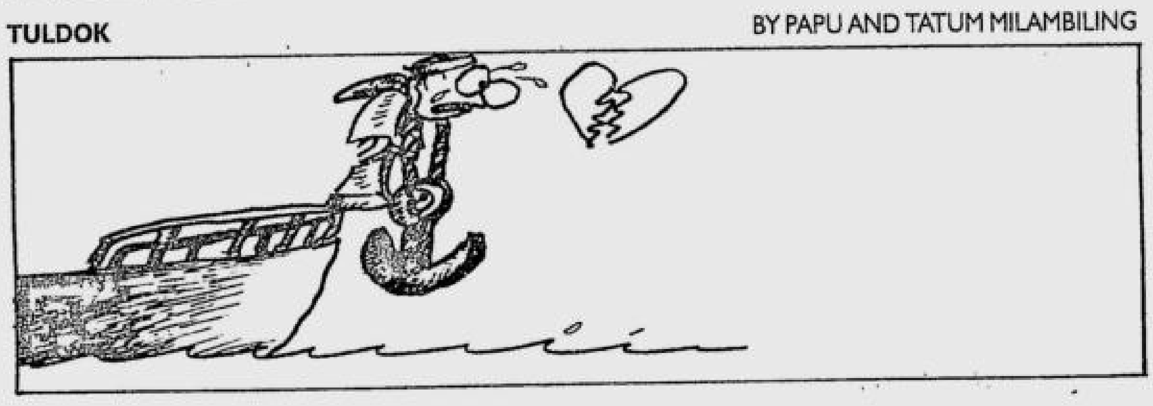
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


...'YUNG DUMI 'YUNG PROBLEMA MO, MEHN... 'YUNG NANA NA NABUBUO SA LOOB NG TIGYAWAT!...BUTI NGA TINITIGYAWAT KA, GUSTO NYA ALISIN NANA SA SISTEMA MO!
'YUNG RASON KUNG BA'T KA NAGKAKA-NANA ANG PUKSAIN MO NANG DEHINS KA NA TIGYAWATIN!
HWOOH!
hay... ANDAMI PA RING KASO NG POVERTY AT INJUSTICE...

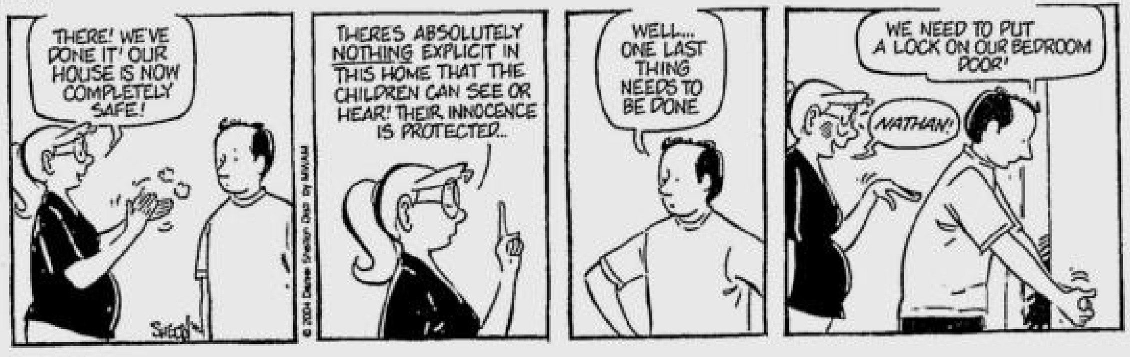
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DATI, PANAY 3 HOURS LANG TULOG KO AT WALANG EXERCISE. LATE PA ANG GISING KO.
jmtejido 5-06
..NGAYON, NAG BAGONG BUHAY NA KO. GUMI-GISING NA KONG 7AM PARA MAG-JOGGING!
AYOS. PERO BA'T MUKHA KANG MAY-SAKIT?
E 3 HOURS PA RIN ANG TULOG KO E!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THERE! WE'VE DONE IT! OUR HOUSE IS NOW COMPLETELY SAFE!
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING EXPLICIT IN THIS HOME THAT THE CHILDREN CAN SEE OR HEAR! THEIR INNOCENCE IS PROTECTED...
WELL... ONE LAST THING NEEDS TO BE DONE
WE NEED TO PUT A LOCK ON OUR BEDROOM DOOR!
NATHAN!

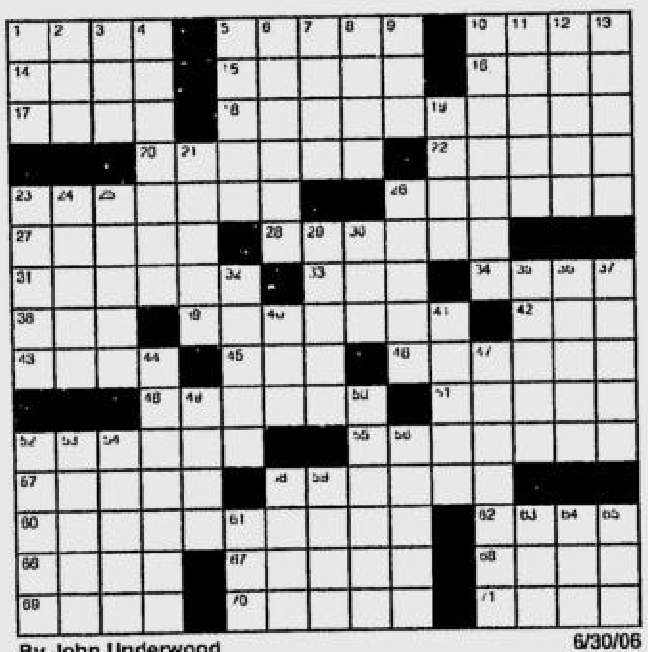
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Trademark swab
5 In a stack
10 Lapland nomad
14 Roughly
15 Slacken
16 Writer Bagnold
17 Manhandle
18 O'Toole role
20 Of the stars
22 "Butterfield 8" author
23 O'Toole role
26 People with pads
27 Bookplate, briefly
28 Hindu incarnation
31 Freezes progress
33 Mont. neighbor
34 Noun-forming suffix
38 Austrian article
39 O'Toole role
42 Gallery display
43 Rick's flame in "Casablanca"
45 Feathery scarf
46 Come back to
48 Ripe for marriage
51 Pause mark
52 Turnover, e.g.
55 O'Toole role
57 Plant of the lily family
58 Foundling
60 O'Toole role
62 State of shock
66 Prego rival
67 Bus station
68 Autobahn auto
69 Gael's tongue
70 Unmoving
71 Ages and ages

DOWN

1 Shiite pilgrimage destination
2 Refrain syllable
3 Bird's alma mater
4 North Star
5 Singer Page
6 Portugal's peninsula
7 Refrain syllables
8 Lat. list-ender
9 Condensation from the night
10 Listen, you!
11 Kofi of the U.N.
12 Small-scale
13 Thoughts
19 Church court
21 Actress Thorndike
23 Spyri heroine
24 Surpass
25 Reds and Cards
26 Single step
29 Author of "1876"
30 Pt. of speech
32 Stylish in Soho
35 Watts of "Le Divorce"
36 Hamper
37 Bunsen burner ancestors
40 King of France
41 Holy city of Islam
44 Old
47 Mr. X
49 Pakistani tongue
50 Caveat ___
52 San Diego player
53 "... set the table on ___?": Shak.
54 Musical pieces
56 Fictional Butler
58 Yoked beasts
59 Weapon in Clue
61 A mean Amin
63 GI mail drop
64 School of Buddhism
65 RRs on trestles



By John Underwood
New York, NY

6/30/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	P	A	R	■	D	E	F	T	■	P	S	A	L	M
L	I	M	E	■	A	C	L	U	■	A	T	R	I	A
A	T	O	P	■	P	H	A	T	■	L	I	F	E	R
M	A	R	A	T	H	O	N	■	S	E	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	O	N	E	■	O	U	T	C	O	M	E
■	R	U	N	N	E	R	S	W	I	T	H	B	A	D
C	O	N	T	E	■	■	L	I	T	E	■	T	U	G
R	O	S	S	■	S	H	O	E	S	■	S	A	N	E
E	T	A	■	B	E	T	S	■	■	A	C	I	D	S
S	U	F	F	E	R	T	H	E	A	G	O	N	Y	■
S	P	E	E	D	U	P	■	F	R	E	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	A	M	■	O	F	D	E	F	E	A	T
P	O	I	L	U	■	A	L	O	E	■	R	A	V	E
A	R	D	E	B	■	F	E	R	N	■	E	R	I	C
D	E	A	R	S	■	L	O	T	T	■	E	N	D	S

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6/30/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have many practical skills. You have great money savvy. You often develop a particular technique to an excellent degree. You're also ambitious to succeed. (This is quite a winning combo.) No matter how extroverted or introverted you are, you have a very private life. The year ahead might be one of the most powerful years or your life. Open any door. Expect a miracle!

Birthdate of: Ralf Schumacher, Formula 1 driver; Vincent D'Onofrio, actor; Rupert Graves, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a lovely day to enjoy entertaining at home or sharing good times with family. Lay out a spread. Show them you love them

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel positive, upbeat and optimistic today. This is an excellent day for business and commerce. It's a good day for wheeling and dealing, and buying and selling.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): All financial transactions are favored today. Whatever you buy could bring you future profit—certainly joy. You might also figure out new and better ways of earning money!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today the Sun is in your sign, making a lovely aspect to lucky Jupiter. You feel great! Your luck is pretty strong today as well. Enjoy good times with close friends and partners.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Quiet time (just for you) will be rewarding and replenishing. Your spiritual life takes on a greater importance to you now. You feel quite benevolent to others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): What a popular day! Accept all invitations. Enjoy schmoozing with others. Groups, clubs, conferences and meetings will go well. Seek out any kind of group situation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your career and your good name among your peers can get a lovely boost today. People think highly of you. You can definitely attract opportunities to earn money or make a name for yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Opportunities to travel or further your education or training in some way definitely exist today. Keep your eyes open. Act on anything that comes your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The wealth of others can benefit you today. Inheritances, estates and shared property will favor you. You might get money back from the government

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an excellent day to enjoy good times with partners and close friends. Discussions about philosophy, travel and religion will interest you

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Things go extremely well at work today. Your health feels excellent as well. Coworkers are supportive. This is a great way to end your week.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Love, romance, parties and fun are on your menu today. Get out and enjoy yourself. Have fun at happy hour. Playful activities with children can be fun.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

					3		4	
		6					3	8
	7		2					
		4		1				9
			8		5			
3				4		2		
					1		9	
7	2					5		
	8		9					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

6/30

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	5	3	9	1	7	6	2	4
9	2	1	5	4	6	3	8	7
6	7	4	2	3	8	5	9	1
7	4	6	8	9	5	1	3	2
3	9	8	6	2	1	7	4	5
5	1	2	3	7	4	8	6	9
1	3	7	4	6	9	2	5	8
2	8	9	7	5	3	4	1	6
4	6	5	1	8	2	9	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

SHOW TIME

mrGod & Co

THE BAND CALLED mrGod & Co, which regrouped and performed in a major gig last year, is the main act in a benefit concert, titled "mmMama Mi Verde," tomorrow at the Allegria Ballroom of the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

The members of mrGod & Co are EddyBoy Villacorta, Bob de Castro, Janice Celestial, Walter Estoesta (vocals), Tom Galang (bass guitarist), Jun Manuel (lead guitarists) and Marito Moreno (drummer).

Adult school

"mmMama Mi Verde," is organized by La Salle High School batches 1966, 1968 and 1969. Proceeds of the show will benefit the La Salle Greenhills (LSGH) Foundation and the La Salle Adult Night School.

According to Villacorta, the LSGH has been organizing outreach programs in the past years, "But only this year has a foundation been formed and named after the school."

The foundation aims to grant scholarships to indigent children.

mrGod & Co was formed in 1969 as De LaSalle University's high school band. It broke up four years later, with each member joining other bands. Vinoya sand in hotels with such groups as Imperials, Birth of d' Cool and, later, The Rubberbands with De Castro.

Villacorta and De Castro appeared in TV shows like "Stop, Look, Listen," "Winnie Powell TV Show," and "Repertory Philippines TV."

Moreno was a member of the Ultimate Jury Band with his cousin Tillie.

Face-off

Last year, mrGod & Co regrouped and performed in what Villacorta called, "a face-off with a band from Ateneo [University]," at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Celestial first performed with mrGod & Co in that gig.

Tomorrow's guest performers are bands DC Aftershock, Petrified Anthem and GreenGang, with Atek Jacinto as keyboardist.

Today

- Nina in "Very Manilow" at the Music Museum. Call 721-6726.
- Roselle Nava with guest Reuben Laurente at Zirkoh, Angeles, Pampanga
- RJ 'n Friends and Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar
- Go Girls album launch at Bronx Dance Bar
- Fat Session at Tavern on the Square
- Cascades 2006 World Tour in Davao City
- MTV Live Sessions at Café Lupe featuring Orange and Lemons
- Solace at SM North Edsa

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SUPERMAN RETURNS G 11:40,2:40,5:40	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 1:40,4:40,7:40,10:40
SUPERMAN RETURNS G 12:10,3:10,6:10	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 12:40,3:40,6:40,9:40	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 2:10,5:10,11:10

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 144041

ALL BRANDS BIG SALE!
JUNE 30 to JULY 2

POWER PLANT MALL

SHANG CINEPLEX

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB GP	1.40, 4.50, 8:00, 11:10
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB. GP	12.40, 3.50, 7:00, 10:10
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB GP	11.30, 2.40, 9:00
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB GP	1.10, 4.20, 7:30, 10.40
PREMIERE THEATRE	SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB GP	12 00, 3 10, 6 20

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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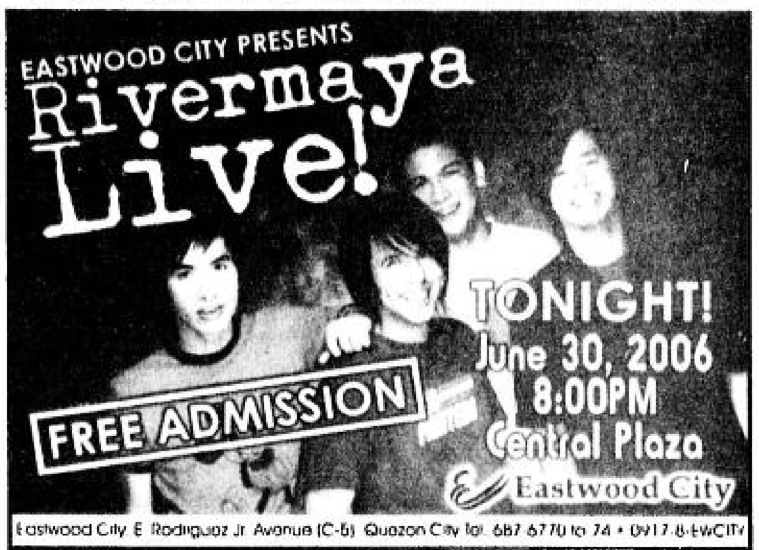
Shangri-La Plaza



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Rivermaya Live!
FREE ADMISSION
TONIGHT! June 30, 2006 8:00PM Central Plaza
Eastwood City

Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C-5) Quezon City Tel. 687 6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

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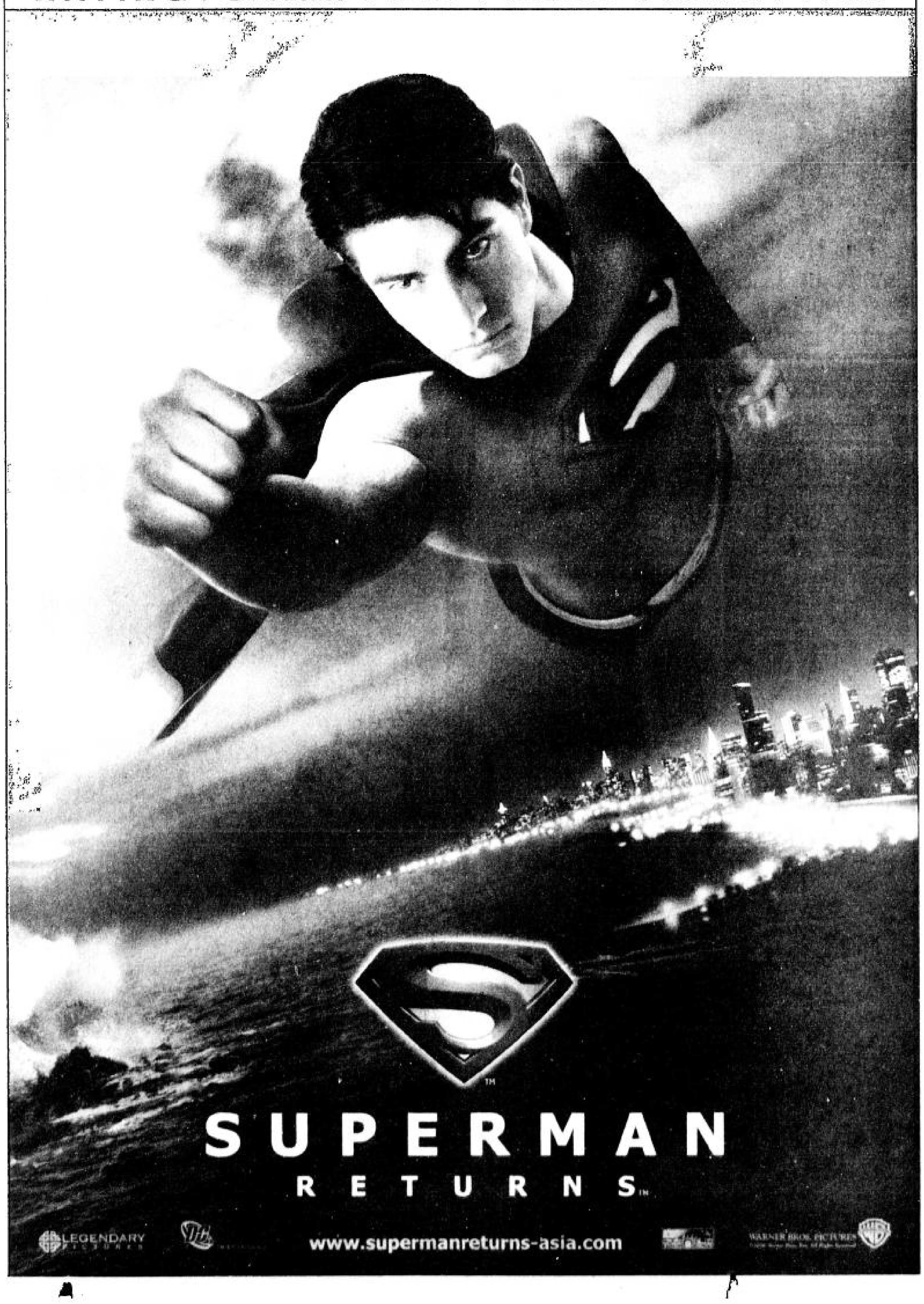
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS	11:30, 2:55, 6:20, 9:45	GP
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS	12:50, 4:20, 11:10	GP
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS	12:10, 3:40, 10:30	GP
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS	2:10, 5:35, 9:00	GP

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▸ G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED



SUPERMAN RETURNS

www.supermanreturns-asia.com

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS
PREMIERE	SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	SCARY MOVIE - 4
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS

starmall EDSA • SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS
5	FAST 7 THE FURIOUS -3

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 6504288, 6433994

1	KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2	WHORE
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS

THEATRES

1	SCARY MOVIE - 4
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

PACQUIAO
SUPERMAN RETURNS
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS
5	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS - 3
6	SUPERMAN RETURNS
7	LAKE HOUSE
8	SCARY MOVIE - 4
9	SUPERMAN RETURNS
10	KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 (DOLBY)	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 (DOLBY)	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	FAST & THE FURIOUS- 3

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4	THE NUN
5	PACQUIAO

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	WHORE
3	SCARY MOVIE - 4
4	RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	PACQUIAO
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	THE OMEN 666

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	SUBMERGED
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	PACQUIAO

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	CARS
2	PACQUIAO

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SCARY MOVIE - 4
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	LAKE HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	LAKE HOUSE
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	PACQUIAO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	PACQUIAO
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	THE INSIDE MAN
2	PACQUIAO
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel(044) 795.3320

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	THE OMEN 666
2	KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	MASAKIT WAG MONG IPILIT
3	THE DESCENT
4	WHORE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545 7202

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
2	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
3	LAKE HOUSE
4	KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
5	PACQUIAO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0190

1	INSIDE MAN
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
3	SCARY MOVIE - 4
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	BAYARAN
2	KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

DID YOU KNOW...

More than a stalker

LOS ANGELES—Actor John Cusack is seeking a restraining order against a woman he claims has been stalking him for more than 18 months.

In papers filed Friday in Superior Court, Cusack requested that 31-year-old Emily Leatherman stay at least 150 meters away from him, his home, his work, his car, and offices or companies in which he does business.

The documents indicate that Leatherman has no known address and identify her as a transient.

"This person is ... throwing long letters of interest over my fence in bags with rocks and screwdrivers inside, making unannounced visits to offices of people I work with in an attempt to meet with me and listing my address as her own," Cusack said in the request. *AP*

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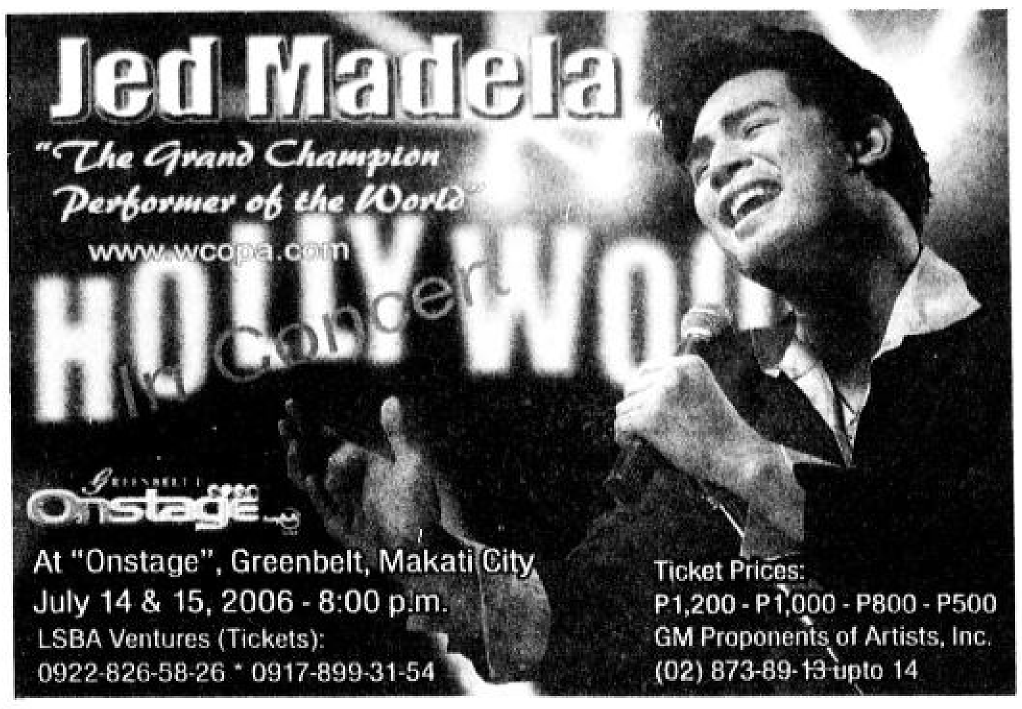
ORLANDO BLOOM
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN
DEAD MAN'S CHEST
pirates.movies.com
OPENS JULY 12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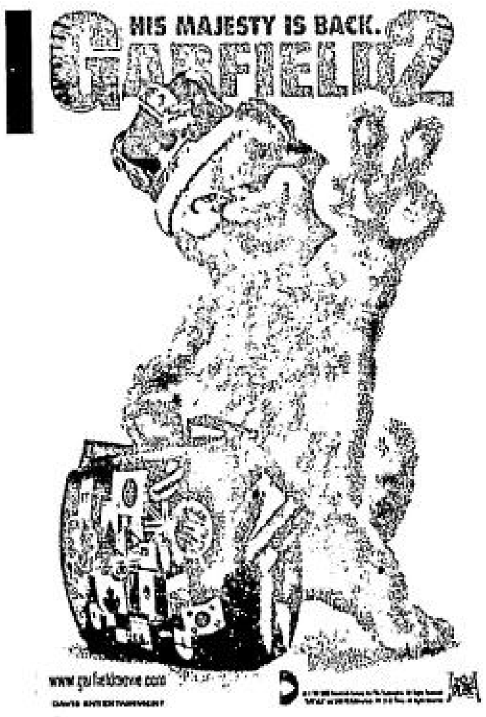
P1,200 - P1,000 - P800 - P500
GM Proponents of Artists, Inc.
(02) 873-89-13 upto 14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Robinsons Place Imus

JULY 02 (Sunday)
1:00 - 5:00PM
Robinsons Galleria

MALL ACTIVITY CENTER
MTRCB Rating: G
Robinsons Malls

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls Lovemall!

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 SCARY MOVIE 4	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE LAKE HOUSE	5 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT	6 SUPERMAN RETURNS	7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 KINSEY	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 2:15, 5:30, 8:45, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:35, 4:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:30, 2:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS		
	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4 SCARY MOVIE 4
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SCARY MOVIE 4		
	3 SCARY MOVIE 4	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Philippine Retailers Association's Retail Careers & Jobs Fair June 28 to 29, 2006	Gary V Live in concert! July 1, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Wellness Revo June 30, 2006	Sony Summer Pleasures 2006 June 19 to July 12, 2006

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June 27 to August 27, 2006

Onstage
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July 8, 2006
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Ayala MUSEUM
Ode To The Pasig River
June 27 to August 27, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

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AYALA MALLS CINEMAS' SUPERMAN RETURNS™ SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR JUNE 28 ONLY

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1** - 12:45 PM, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30
Cinema 2 - 10:30 AM, 1:45 PM, 5:00, 8:15
Cinema 3* - 1:15 PM, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00
Cinema 6** - 12:15 PM, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
Cinema 7 - 11:45 AM, 3:00 PM, 6:15, 9:30

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 2:15 PM, 5:30, 8:45, 12:00
Cinema 2* - 1:35 PM, 4:50, 11:20
Cinema 3** - 12:00 NN, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
Cinema 4** - 12:30 PM, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
Cinema 5** - 11:30 AM, 2:45 PM

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 2 - 12:40 PM, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00

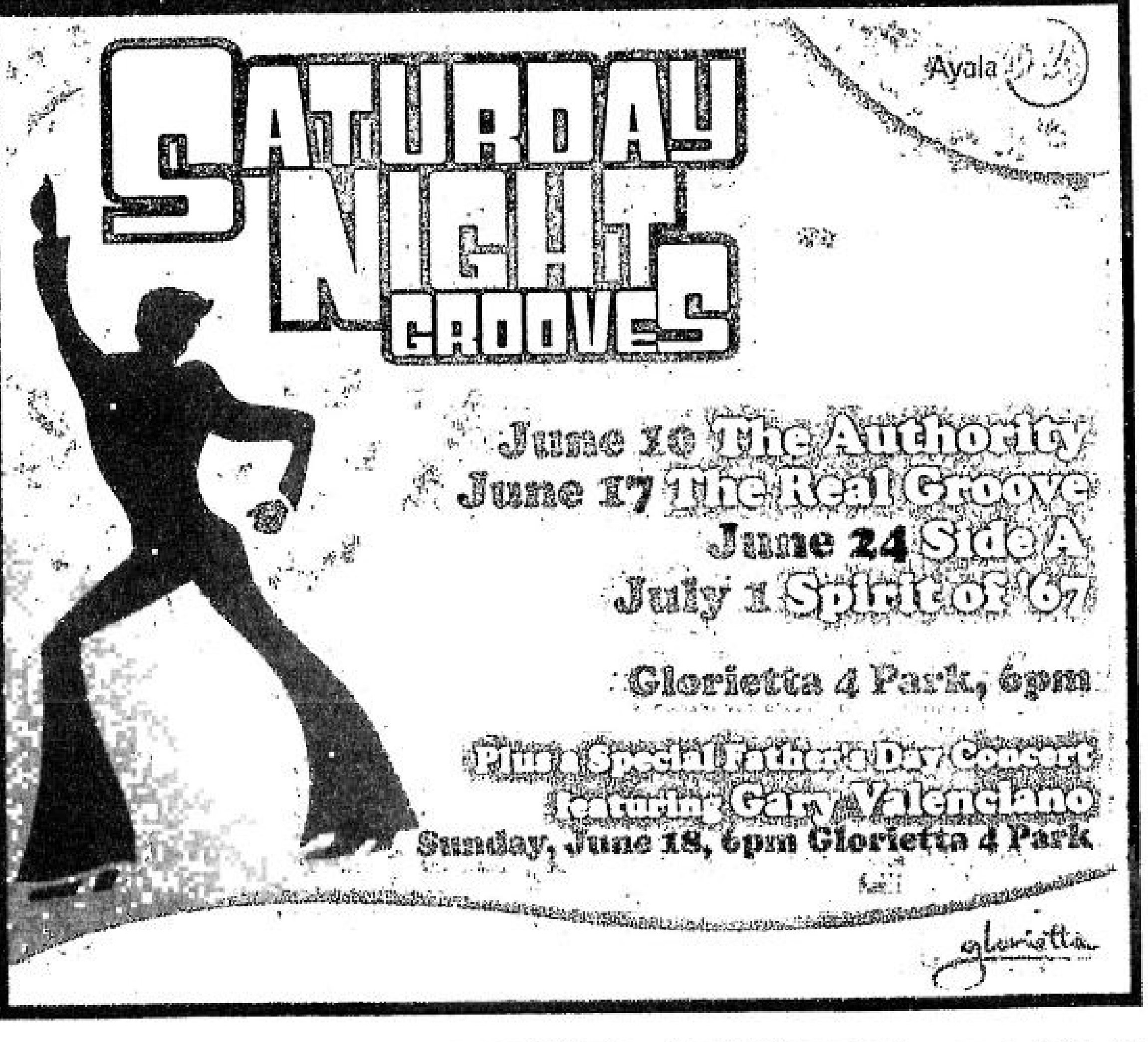
GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 11:00 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:20, 8:30

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 3 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
Cinema 5 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 1 - 11:45 AM, 2:55 PM, 6:05, 9:15
Cinema 4 - 12:15 PM, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45
Cinema 5 - 11:15 AM, 2:25 PM, 5:35, 8:45

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 1 - 12:00 NN, 2:45, 5:50, 9:15
Cinema 2 - 12:15 PM, 3:00, 6:05, 9:30

* THX & Guaranteed Seat Cinema
** Digital Sound & Guaranteed Seat Cinemas
Screening schedules are subject to change without prior notice
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (All Ages Admitted)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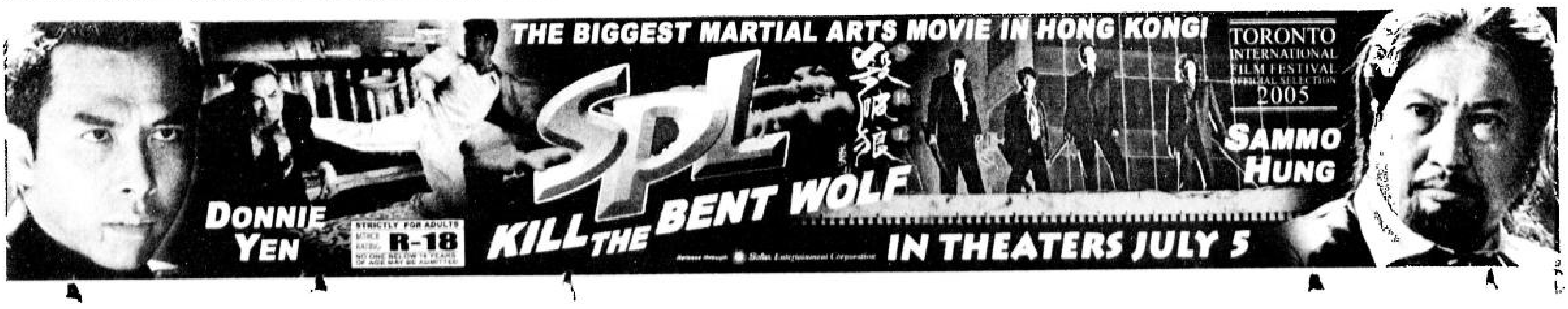
SATURDAY NIGHT GROOVES
June 10 The Authority
June 17 The Real Groove
June 24 Side A
July 1 Spirit of '67
Glorietta 4 Park, 6pm
Plus a Special Father's Day Concert featuring Gary Valenciano
Sunday, June 18, 6pm Glorietta 4 Park
glorietta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IN THEATERS JULY 5

Men, music & masquerades

A chat with '70s icons, the Village People

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

"DISCO NEVER DIED. THEY JUST CHANGED its name," says the Village People, the iconic sextet who became known for their hits "In the Navy," "YMCA," "You Can't Stop the Music" and "Macho Man." The group met with the local press on Wednesday garbed in full costume, expressing elation over the chance to perform with fellow disco-era singers Sister Sledge at the Araneta Coliseum tomorrow. Both groups will also perform at the retro-themed "Bench Fever" underwear and denim show tonight.

Formed in the late '70s by producer Jacques Morali, the Village People, regularly dressed up as quintessential male authority figures, was named after New York City's gay-friendly Greenwich Villa.

"It was his idea to put together different American stereotypes," says "Construction Worker" David Hodo. "We [just] added a few characters."

The group has sold millions of records worldwide for decades.

Kathy Sledge believes that the Village People's and her group's songs have remained resonant after all these years because of their perfect blend of light and catchy lyrics. "What's most exciting is the resurgence of our music. I guess you can say it's timeless. It makes people happy. There's nothing heavy about it. That's what music should do. With 'We Are Family,' there's the magic of spontaneity. The song is a blessing."

Original members Hodo and Alex Briley ("The Soldier") elaborates on the Village People's changing fan base, their David Bowie-inspired phase, and being recognized as icons of a flamboyant musical era:

How has the group changed musically?

Hodo: We pretty much do the same thing we've always done. It's a recipe that continues to work for us.

Briley: The only thing that's different is, children of the fans from the '70s are coming to see us now.

How diverse are your fans?

Hodo: Nowadays, little children in school are taught "YMCA."

How does it feel to be gay icons?

Hodo: It's fabulous! We're not only gay icons, we're icons for a decade. We've been a punch line in every movie, in every sitcom.

How different is it to be a popular group that has gay members?

Hodo: There are gay members in every band. Trust me, we know! We're the only ones that have been open about it through the years, but we don't really point people out.

Please describe your place in the music scene now, as opposed to disco's heyday.

Hodo: The world is a harsher place now than it was in the '70s. But people still wanna have a good time.

Briley: We're glad we're still working; that there are still people around the world who listen to our music and see us.

Hodo: And they say, "Thank you, you brought back so many wonderful memories!"

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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:40, 2:45, 5:50, 9:00, 11:55 GP
CINEMA 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10:20, 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:50 GP
CINEMA 5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10:35, 1:40, 4:45, 7:50, 10:55 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

JUNE 30,2006	NINA in VERY MANILOW	9:00PM
JULY 29,2006	PILITA C. & ELIZABETH R.	8:30PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
JULY 6,2006	PRIME COUNCIL	9:00PM
JULY 7,2006	FREEVERSE	9:00PM
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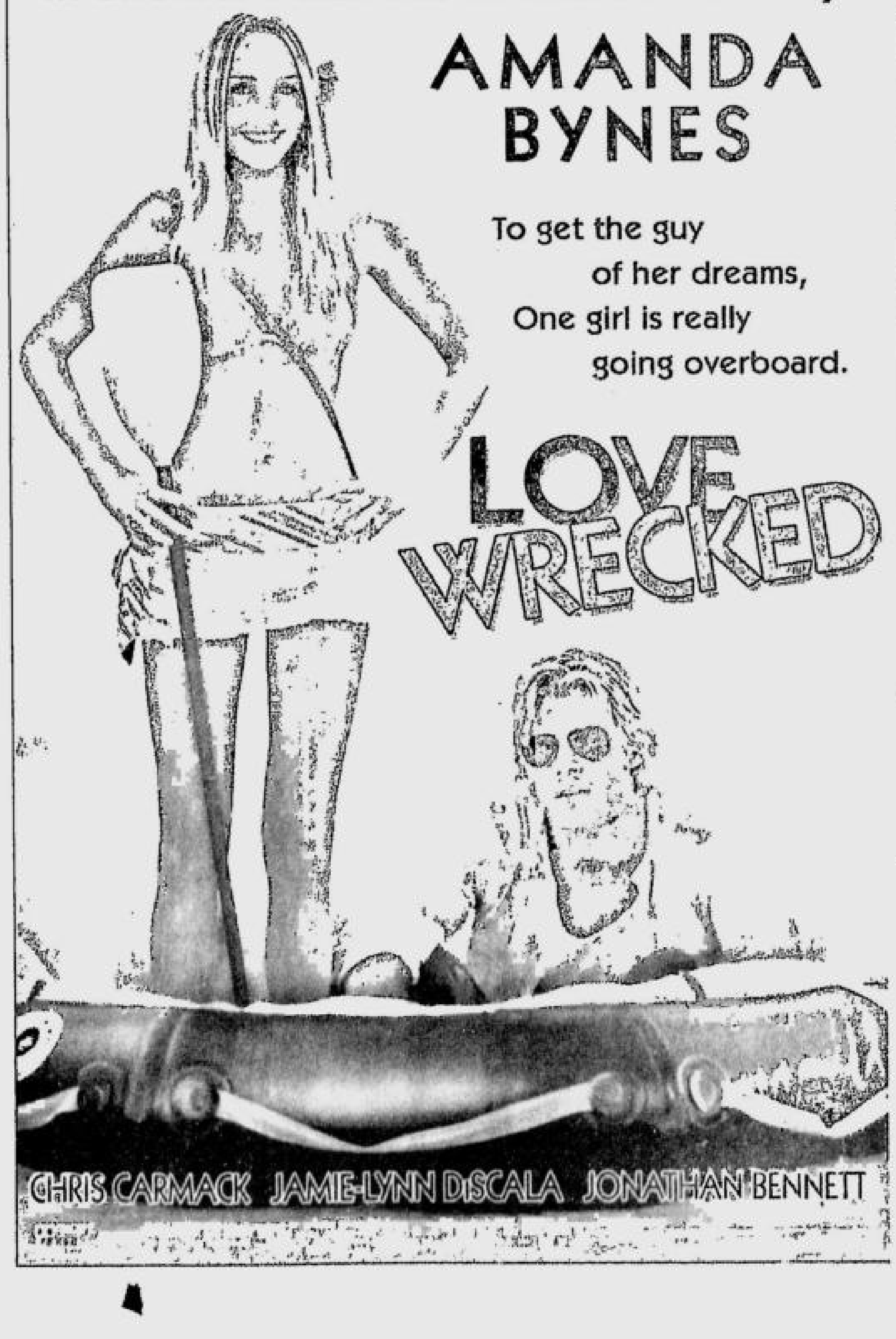

OPENS JULY 5
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent for adults
The Funny Girl from She's THE MAN is back in another Hilarious Romantic Comedy
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GALLERIA 632-9116
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS • THX 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:00 4:10 7:20 10:30
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10:30 1:40 4:50 8:00
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
7 LAKE HOUSE 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
9 SCARY MOVIE 4 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
10 THE NUN 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

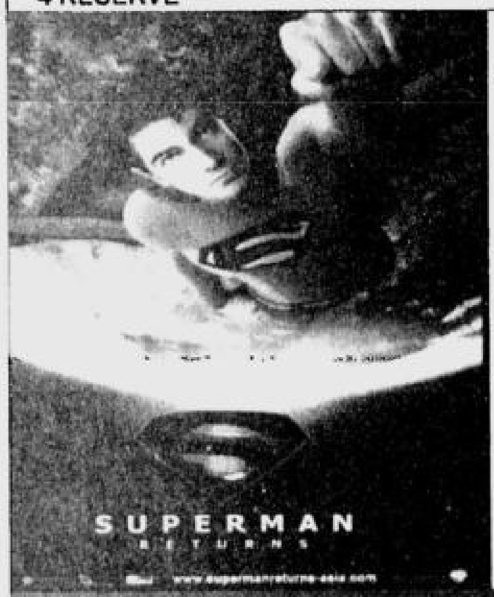
ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:30 3:45 7:00 10:10
2 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 12:00 1:40 3:20 5:00 6:40 8:20 10:00
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10.30 1:45 5:00 8:15
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:30 2:45 6:00 9:15
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:30 2:45 6:00 9:15
6 SCARY MOVIE 4 11:30 1:15 3:00
THE NUN 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 LAKE HOUSE 11:20 1:10 3:00
THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 5:30 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 SCARY MOVIE 4 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10:30 2:00 5:30 9:00
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2:00 5:30 9:00
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:00 4:30 8:00
5 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
6 THE NUN 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:30 5:00 8:30
8 LAKE HOUSE 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 THE NUN
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 SCARY MOVIE 4

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 LAKE HOUSE / SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SCARY MOVIE 4



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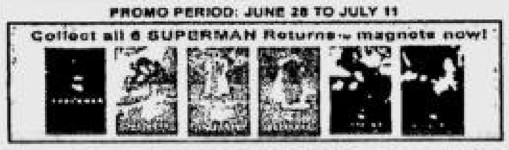

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 SUBMERGED
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 AQUAMARINE
4 THE INSIDE MAN

DASMARINAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 THE INSIDE MAN

ANGELES (045) 892-[illegible]
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE NUN
3 SUBMERGED
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

IMUS (046) 876-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 CHAOS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
4 SCARY MOVIE 4
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 THE INSIDE MAN
5 SCARY MOVIE 4
6 THE OMEN

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 CARS
6 SCARY MOVIE 4

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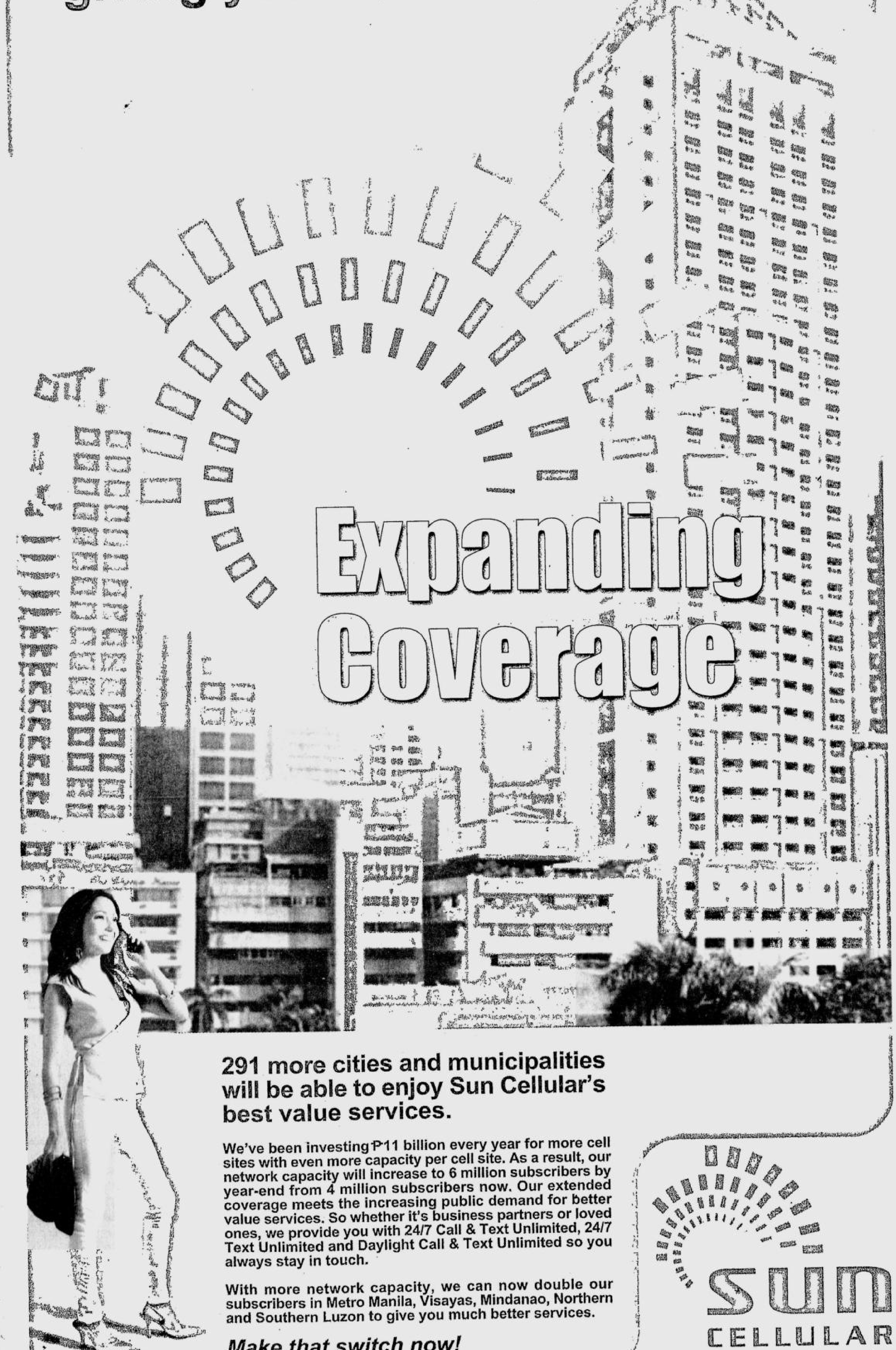

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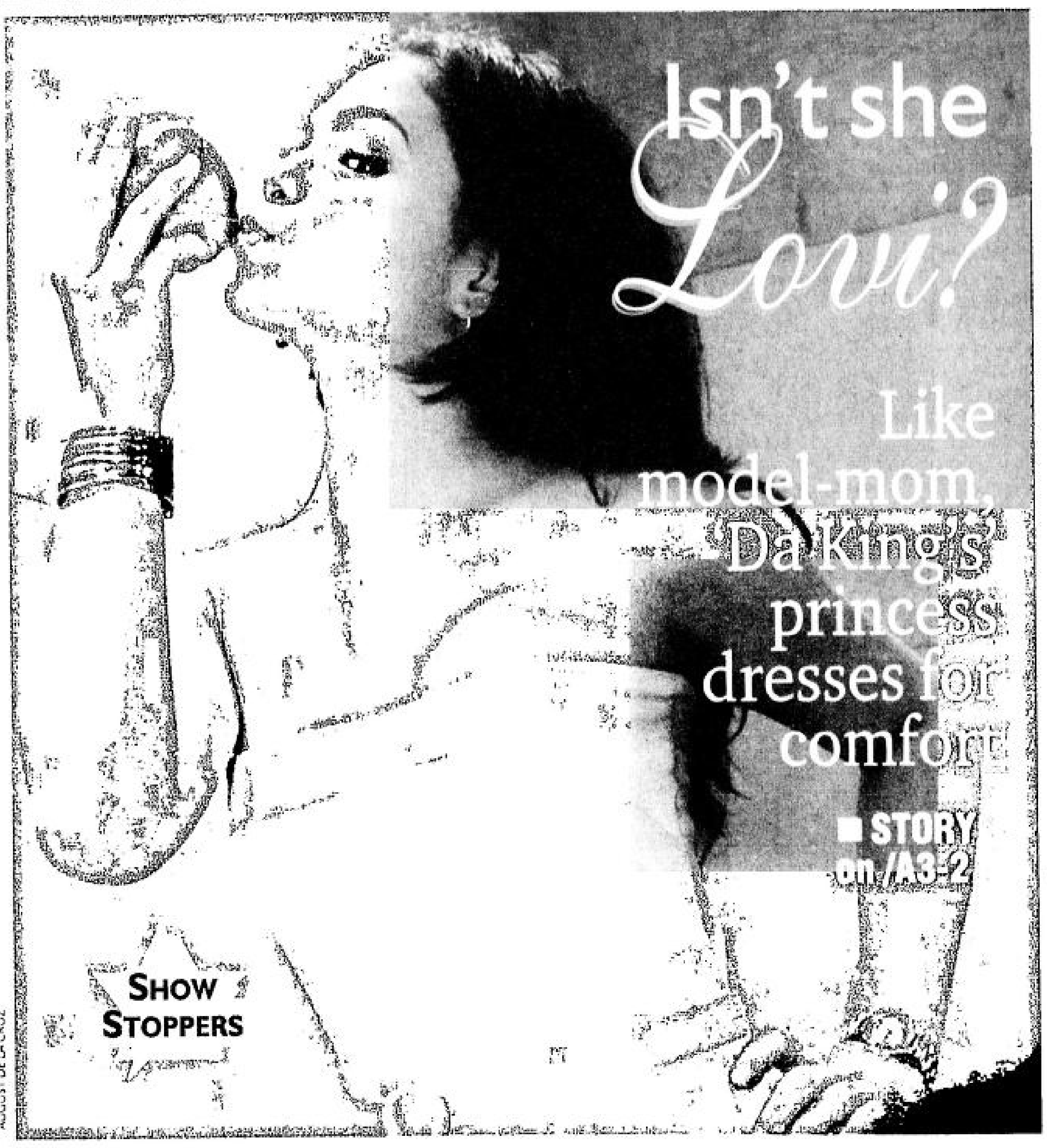

Isn't she *Lovi?*

Like model-mom, Da King's princess dresses for comfort

■ STORY on/A3-2

SHOW STOPPERS

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A tiff between two industry giants was settled, a chick flick with a powerhouse cast was cooked up, laughter rose above all other sounds.

Ruffa Gutierrez, birthday girl, marked her, uh, she "stopped counting at 21"... with dinner at Le Souffle in Rockwell, hosted by cosmetic surgeon Manny Calayan and his dermatologist-wife Pie.

The guest list was impressive, even by show biz's glam standards. The friends-again bigwigs are Lily Monteverde and Wilson Tieng. We can probably expect Gretchen Barretto, Dawn Zulueta, Pops Fernandez and Ruffa to topbill the chick flick, to be directed by Eric Quizon.

Stars Living was there.

B'DAY girl Ruffa G

PRETTY guest Dawn Zulueta

DONITA Rose and JP

TWO MORE pretty guests, Gretchen Barretto and Pops Fernandez

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One 第一 yellow tea 檸檬冰茶 lemon iced tea

One 第一 red tea 紅茶

Get The Right One

LOVI in a powder blue strapless dress that she bought from X in Glorietta. She wore it to a teacher's wedding.

SHOW STOPPERS

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"IT DEPENDS ON MY mood," 17-year-old singer Lourdes Virginia "Lovi" Poe sums up her fashion sense.

She describes her clothing style as unpredictable, like a teen's temperament. As a rule, though, this high school senior from Colegio de San Agustin is a minimalist off-cam.

"I dress simply," she says. "And I don't like jewelry."

Her only must-have accessory is her Chanel or Gucci watch.

When she's malling with friends, she's usually just in jeans, her hair in a pony tail. But since joining show biz, she has learned to glam it up a bit. She recently turned heads at the MYX and Awit Awards red carpet. And during the launch of her Sony-BMG CD, "The Best of My Heart," Lovi was dressed to thrill and gave Stars Living a sneak peek into her wardrobe.

GAMELY, she strikes an FPJ pose in an old pair of jeans her mom made... er... ruined... er... jazzed up! "Groovy" mom ripped out the back pockets.
The white tank top is from Bayo, and the cobalt blue see-thru bolero is a gift from mom.

Young designer Angelo Estera makes her clothes, she says. She first noticed Angelo's work as she passed by his boutique in Quezon City. "I made a mental note to ask him to make my prom dress."

Prom night coincided with her birthday (Feb. 11). Together, Lovi and Angelo whipped up a white-and-gold number. Her only spec: "I want to look like a goddess."

The result was "simply beautiful." She was declared Prom Princess.

But a prince-less one.

"My other friends had dates, but I didn't have time to look for one," she says.

She has her grand debut next year mapped out, down to the smallest detail: "The theme is rock-glam." As for her gown? "It will be unique, elegant but with a rock-star quality."

What's the real Lovi like? "Fun-loving. I seem serious on-cam, but I know how to enjoy life."

The humor could well be courtesy of dad, the late Action King Fernando Poe Jr. "I also inherited his love for people," says Lovi. On the other hand, she has a pragmatic side, like her mom, former model-actress Rowena Moran.

Mom is also her fashion advisor. Lovi explains: "My mom is very practical. She'd wear whatever is available, but she can also be very stylish. She jazzed up the jeans I wore to the MYX event with beadwork and peek-a-boo slits because I wanted to look like a rock star that night."

She counsels young girls to heed their instincts when choosing clothes. "Go for comfort. And don't stick to one style. Experiment. Mix and match."

But she advises them to take it easy when shopping. "I personally don't like spending hard-earned money. I'm saving up for my planned business ventures, a boutique and a restaurant."

Guess what her future Filipino diner will be called? The girl smiles and says, "Kain na Poe!"

PHOTOS BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ
LOCATION: CROWNE PLAZA GALLERIA MANILA
SPECIAL THANKS TO: TRIXIE CHAVEZ

"I AM very girly," she says. "I love to dress up." She has "a lot" of skirts and dresses, including this one from Mezze—another gift from mom.

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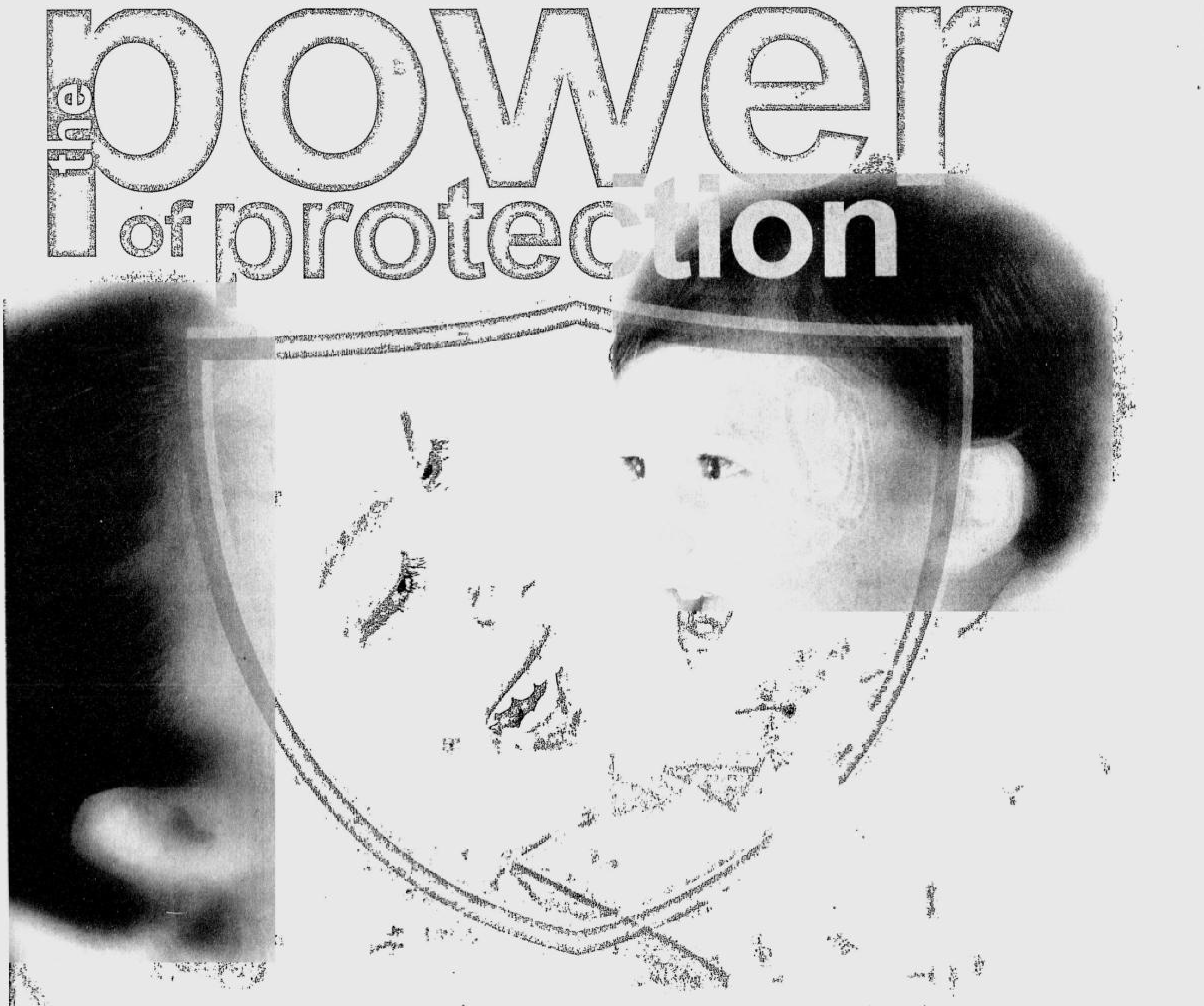
RAYMOND, not Richard Gutierrez

WITH Assunta de Rossi

WITH her hosts, Manny and Pie Calayan



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From page A3-1

RUFFA with actor-director Eric Quizon, who may do the next big chick flick.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

HELLO, Jean Saburit!

JOLINA hosts the unusual party

PINKY Amador and Maribeth Bichara

Bone-scan dance

BELIEVE it. A bone scan density marathon had celebs trooping to Glorietta recently, in spite of a tropical storm.

Who else would lead the pack but Asia's Queen of Songs Pilita Corrales, who can still do her signature back bend when performing?

Also present was track athlete Elma Muros Posadas, dance instructor Maribeth Bichara, TV dance star Regine Tolentino, and stage performers Pinky Marquez and Pinky Amador.

Singer-actress Jolina Magdangal hosted the event sponsored by Anlene and dubbed "Glorietta Save Your Bones, Love Your Life Mega Bone Scan Event." Over 1,200 women came to follow the health-conscious stars' lead.

PILITA Corrales' turn

PINKY Marquez

THE REGINE Tolentino challenge

Janice de Belen

"MY all-time favorite book is "Being Happy: A Handbook to Greater and Security" by Andrew Matthews. It attempts to answer all your questions about how to achieve ultimate happiness. It tries to teach its readers that happiness is in how you look at things; that it cannot be bought.

It's very light and simple. It even has illustrations. You'll find yourself saying, "*Oo nga, 'no?*"

I gave copies to friends as gifts. Meanwhile, Matthews has visited Manila, and the book has been translated to Filipino."

Marinel R. Cruz

Maria Ressa

I'M currently reading "Bad News: The Decline of Reporting, the Business of News and the Danger to Us All" by Tom Fenton, a senior European correspondent for CBS News. I worked with his son, Tom Jr., at CNN. The book discusses how news is influenced by business. It points to the pitfalls... things I want to avoid now that I'm a TV executive (for ABS-CBN). I think television news is on a [downward trend] and we need to stop it.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

ROMY HOMILLADA

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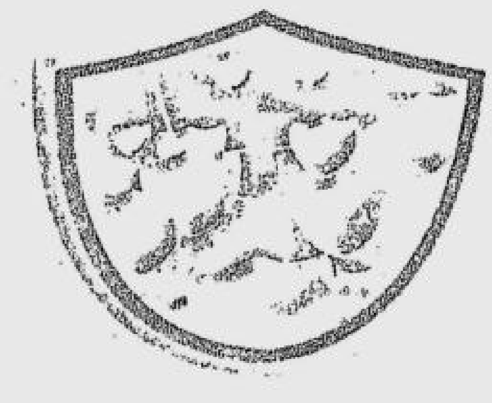

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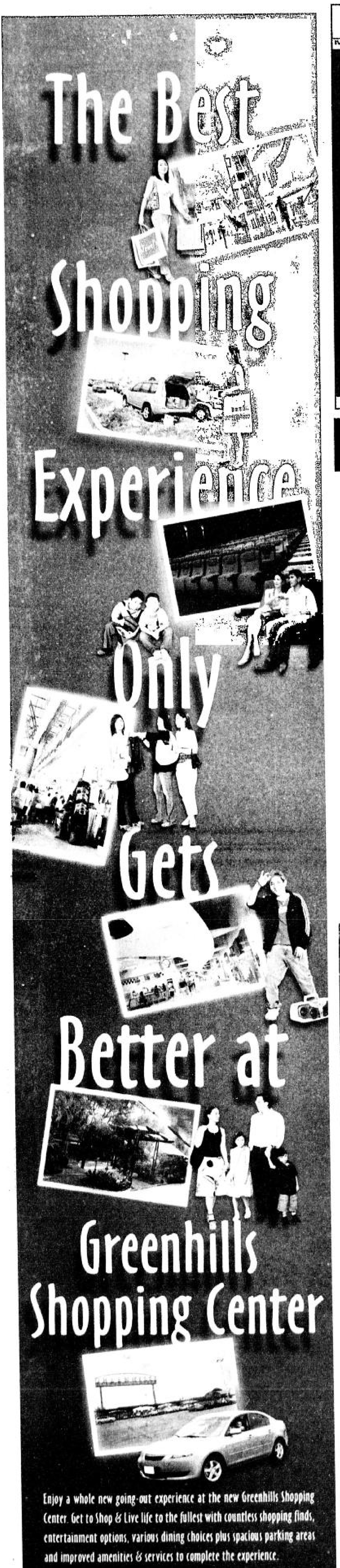

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Marinel R. Cruz

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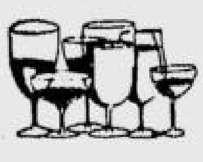

▨ Taipans lose SC cases /B3

BSP keeps rates unchanged

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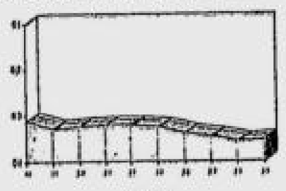

JUNE

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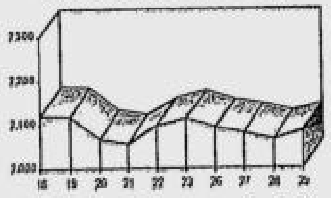

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks up

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.9-PERCENT HIGHer yesterday, snapping a three-day losing streak in a technical rebound inspired by the overnight upturn on Wall Street, dealers said.

However, volume was thinner than usual, with investors waiting for decisions on in-

STOCKS/ B2

US Fed seen raising interest rate today

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE POLICY-MAKING MONETARY BOARD OF THE BANGKO SENtral ng Pilipinas yesterday decided to keep key overnight interest rates unchanged despite pressures from an expected increase in US Fed rates.

The US Federal Reserve Board is poised to raise its policy rates today, and the impact of such a move had been causing volatility in global financial markets. Analysts also expect another rate increase during the Fed's next meeting in August.

On the local front, the peso had fallen to year's lows against the dollar and local stocks tumbled as foreign funds left. Higher US interest rates normally attract funds to dollar-denominated instruments.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the BSP's policy-making board maintained the 7.5 percent rate for overnight borrowing and 9.75 percent for overnight lending, the same levels prevailing since October last year.

"The Monetary Board believed that the evidence on current and expected inflation continues to support the maintenance of policy

BSP/ B2

Peso continues to weaken on interest rate worries

THE PESO YESTERDAY TOUCHED a six-month low of 53.65 to a dollar on worries over rising interest rates in the United States before closing firmer at 53.55 on suspected Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas intervention.

The local currency opened at its intra-day low of 53.65:$1 ahead of the BSP's own rate-setting meeting.

In line with market consensus, the BSP announced at the end of

PESO/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ Franchising is alive and well in RP /B5

▨ Gov't lowers borrowing target /B12

HOMEGROWN National Bookstore is setting up a store in Hong Kong, its first overseas, this September.

National Bookstore expands overseas

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NATIONAL BOOKSTORE INC. IS foraying into the competitive Hong Kong market as it sets up its first overseas book shop at the Kowloon area in September next year, NBS president Alfredo Ramos said.

He said the sophisticated Hong Kong consumer market was attractive because of the English proficiency of its people.

Ramos said NBS was also looking at China as a possible target for expansion but it has yet to carefully study this plan since English was not widely spoken in that market.

"It is a dream," Ramos stressed, clarifying further that there were no plans to expand into China as of this time.

Ramos also clarified that the country's biggest bookstore chain was not in a rush to raise new funds from a possible initial pub-

NATIONAL/ B4

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SSS amenable to joint sale of stake in EPCIBank

Awaits high court decision on pensioners' suit

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM said it would consider the proposal of the Government Service Insurance System to jointly sell their shares in Equitable-PCI Bank to get a better deal.

SSS president Corazon dela Paz told reporters that the pension fund was open to the idea of a joint sale, but that serious talks about the proposal could only push through once the SSS hurdles a pending case in the Supreme Court.

A group of pensioners filed with the high tribunal a case questioning the legality of earlier plans of the SSS to sell shares in the bank at a price allegedly disadvantageous to its stakeholders.

Dela Paz said that should the Supreme Court rule in favor of the SSS, then they would entertain proposals for the sale of its shares in the bank, including a joint sale with the shares of GSIS, saying the move would substantially help beef up its fund.

"If the price is right, then we will sell our shares," Dela Paz said in an interview at the sidelines of the 84th anniversary celebration of Isla Lipana & Co. held in Makati Wednesday night.

The SSS said the actuarial life of its fund was recently estimated to last until 2031. But Dela Paz said income-generating initiatives were still needed to further stabilize the health of the fund of the SSS, which provides social security for private sector employees.

GSIS, which serves government employees, earlier said it had backed out of a plan to immediately sell it shares in the bank, saying it was better if the SSS would be jointly selling its shares. The SSS has 29-percent share in the bank.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia had been trying to convince the SSS to sell its stake in Equitable-PCI together with the GSIS in the belief that a joint sale would attract a higher price.

"Investors would be willing to buy if they would be getting a majority stake in the bank, but the GSIS only has 13 percent," Garcia told reporters in a briefing.

Garcia earlier said there were three investors—two of them foreign—who were willing to buy shares in the bank if they would be able to hold a substantial stake.

While believing a joint sale with the SSS would help the two pension funds get a better deal, Garcia admitted such a plan would not be easy to pursue as of the moment given the court case faced by the SSS.

As it held off plans to sell shares in the bank, GSIS said the pension fund would aggressively engage in other income-generating activities, such as investing in foreign-denominated instruments.

Garcia said the GSIS has about P250 billion worth of funds available for investments. The GSIS was looking at investing half of it in domestic instruments and the other half in foreign placements.

BSP keeps rates unchanged

From page B1

settings in the meantime," Tetangco said.

"Core inflation and other recent data continue to paint a scenario of limited demand-based pressures, while latest BSP forecasts remain suggestive of a deceleration in inflation in the second half, leading to within-target inflation in 2007," he said.

But Tetangco warned of further upside risks to inflation linked mainly to movements in global oil prices.

"In the near term, the current high oil price environment is likely to be sustained given a tight demand-supply balance in the international oil market," he said.

Along with likely adjustments in local power costs, Tetangco said the high crude oil price regime was pointing to a continuing environment of supply-side pressures.

"Such a prospect increases the risks to inflation expectations and the likelihood of second-round effects, particularly on wage-setting," the BSP said.

"Rising global interest rates will be closely monitored, in view of their impact on capital movements and inflation," he added.

A narrowing gap between Philippine and foreign interest rates makes the local currency and other peso-denominated assets less attractive, causing foreign investors to sell. This, in turn, puts pressure on the peso as foreign investors convert the proceeds into dollars—inflating demand for the greenback. A sharp local currency depreciation then drives up inflation by bloating the country's import bill.

Tetangco cautioned that the Monetary Board remained strongly committed to achieving the inflation target for 2007 and would be ready to act "upon evidence of escalating risks to the outlook for inflation and to inflation expectations."

Stocks . . .

From page B1

terest rates by the US Federal Reserve and the local central bank as well as their accompanying policy statements, they said.

The composite index rose 18.56 points at 2,084.62 after trading between 2,066.06 and 2,090.68. Volume was 350.55 million shares worth P897.48 million.

The broader all-shares index gained 10.77 points at 1,324.44.

Gainers outnumbered losers 44 to 18, with 51 stocks unchanged.

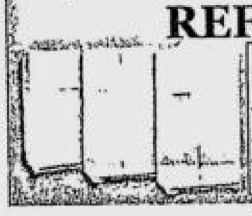
"Stocks have reached oversold levels so selected issues are slowly being accumulated," Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities said.

The main index lost a cumulative 2.2 percent of its value during the three day selloff starting Monday.

Dealers said while there was some anxiety the US Federal Reserve might take a hard line on inflation at its meeting, investors are coming to terms with the likelihood of hikes of 25 basis points now and in August.

"The premise of global fund managers is that another US rate hike, aside from the one expected in a few hours, is going to happen. Investors are slowly getting close to discounting these," Aguila said.

Meanwhile, the Bangko Sentral is widely expected to keep its benchmark overnight rates unchanged for a ninth straight month. *AFP*



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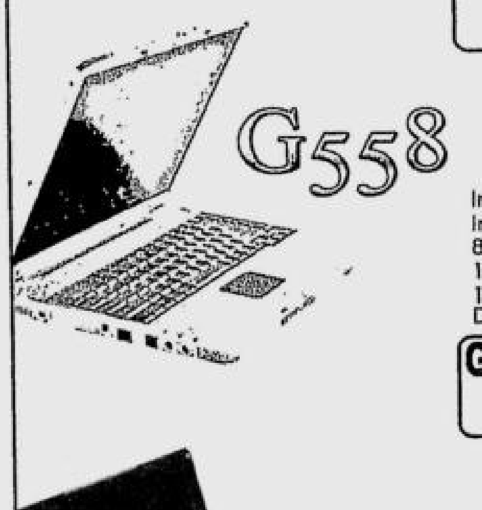

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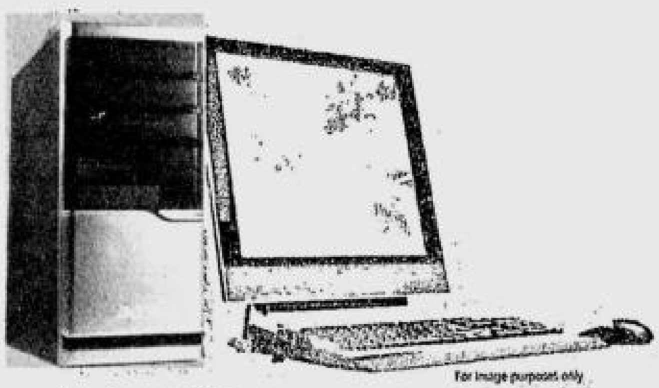

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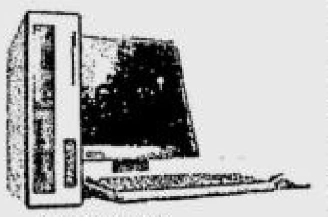

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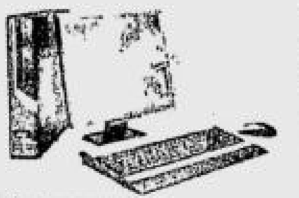

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- Intel® 945G Chipset
- 256MB DDR2 RAM/80GB HDD SATA 2
- Integrated Graphics with DVMT 3.0 up to 224MB max shared memory
- Embedded Intel® HD Audio CODEC, Realtek ALC880
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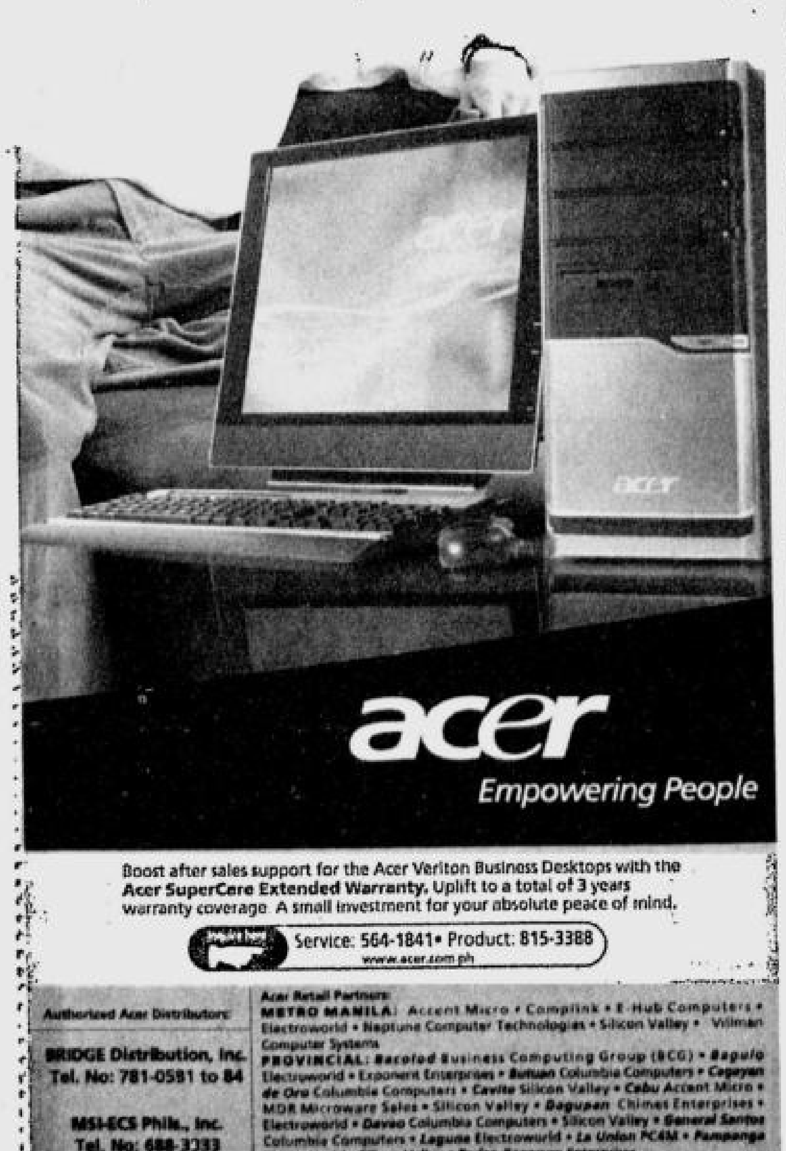

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Taipans lose SC cases

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

TAIPAN ALFONSO YUCHENGCO is not alone in getting licked at the Supreme Court this month. So is fellow taipan Lucio Tan.

Tan's Tanduay Distillers lost a long-drawn-out case against Rufina over the use of Tanduay's rum bottles for Rufina *patis* (fish sauce).

A Commonwealth-era law allows makers of *patis, sisi, bagoong* and similar native sauces to reuse other company's bottles but Tan's lawyers sought to restrict the privilege by claiming that Rufina is no longer a cottage industry that RA 623 had sought to protect.

But the high court, through *ponente* Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, ruled that the law made no such class distinction when it granted fish sauce bottlers exemption from trademark prohibitions.

Tanduay said it needed to reuse its own bottles at least five times to recover production cost, an argument that Chico-Nazario deflected by noting that the cost of the container had already been built in in the selling price, in this case, of the rum.

The Yuchengco setback, refers to the publicized P100-million tax case that his Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. lost because of the bank counsel's late filing of the pertinent pleadings.

Contrary to what was published here Monday, it was not the Salvador Guevara & Associates that had been tardy but, according to the grapevine, an RCBC in-house counsel whose fumble had prompted the bank to engage the Salvador Guevara law firm to salvage the situation.

Sy wins Tuscany round

WHILE his fellow taipans may have suffered legal setbacks this month and his daughter/heiress-apparent lost the Equitable PCIBank case to prevent maverick director Ferdinand Martin Romualdez from rejoining the board, mall magnate Henry Sy has moved closer to winning back ownership of 98 parking slots in the Makati Tuscany.

Sy's Multi-Realty Development Corp. built the upscale condo across from the Manila Peninsula in the early 1970s, retaining 98 out of the 270 parking slots in the deed of restrictions.

Somehow, in the 1977 deed of transfer to the Tuscany residents association, the ownership terms were not clearly spelled out, resulting in Tuscany selling 26 slots and later claiming the balance of the parking slots as "common areas."

After negotiations failed, Sy sued for damages and reformation of the master deed, but lost in the Makati Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals.

This month, the Supreme Court's First Division overturned the lower courts, and directed the appellate court to resolve Sy's appeal, but not after *ponente* Justice Romeo Callejo Sr. gave the CA a review course on rules of prescription.

Incidentally, from the 1979 price of P33,000, a Tuscany parking slot now sells for P600,000 easily.

Money-go-round

- AFTER selling 90 million shares at an average price of P11.11 a share in February, ICTSI Warehousing on Wednesday bought back 48.99 million shares of its parent company, International Container Terminal Services Inc., at a much higher price of P13.50 a share.
- The Department of Agrarian Reform has lost in its bid to place a large chunk of the 700-hectare property of the Philcomsat Group under land reform.

The Supreme Court ruled that two 1982 Marcos decrees have specifically classified a three-kilometer radius from the Philcomsat earth station in Baras, Rizal, as "security zone" under the jurisdiction of the Department of National Defense and, therefore, beyond the pale of agrarian reform.

Former Defense Secretary now Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, whose family is a founding shareholder of Philcomsat, owns 10 hectares within the picturesque valley.

Heard through the grapevine

A 168 Mall partner, Philip Ang, has sold his family's seven-hectare property in Sucat, formerly the Solidmills plant, to taipan John Gokongwei, who plans to build a mall and possibly two residential condominiums in the shuttered textile factory.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Peso continues to weaken ...

From page B1

trading day that it had kept its interest rates unchanged given its expectations of a downtrend in inflation in the coming months. *(See story on this page.)*

"(The peso) traded weaker although it (recovered) later on, with the market believing there might be some intervention from the BSP," said a currency trader with a big local bank.

The peso even gained 2.5 centavos from Wednesday's closing of 53.575 against the greenback.

Volume traded at the Philippine Dealing System was thin at $282 million.

The trader said local political uncertainties arising from renewed impeachment initiative against President Macapagal-Arroyo also had a dampening effect on the market, although secondary to concerns over rising interest rates in the United States.

With the peso nearing oversold levels against the greenback, the next key market barriers were seen at a low of 53.75 and a high of 53.25:$1.

This developed as the dollar gained ground ahead of the expected quarter-percentage-point increase in the US Fed rate for the 17th straight time today.

The London-based economics unit of American Express Bank said a quarter-point increase in the Fed rate to 5.25 percent was most likely at today's Federal Open Market Committee meeting.

"We expect the Fed to pause in August—the current high probability attached to another hike looks too extreme," Amex said.

The US bank noted that economic growth in the United States would likely slow down while inflation pressures should ease soon.

"If the data pan out as we expect over the next four to six weeks, then the dollar should fall while US stocks and bonds should rally," Amex said.

"The risk that we are wrong, and that the Fed hikes again in August, is high," it said.

Doris C. Dumlao

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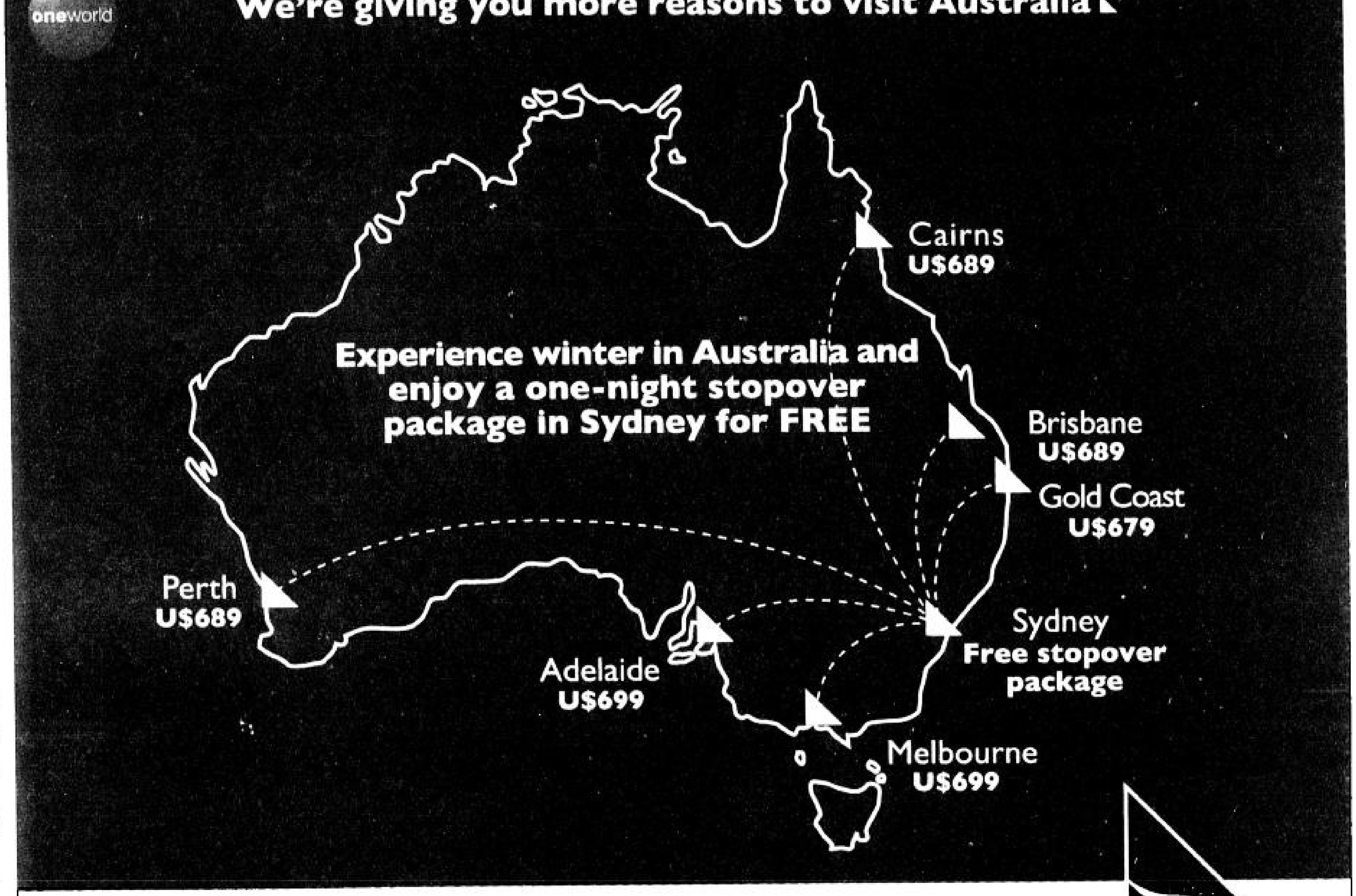
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1788 Series of 2006

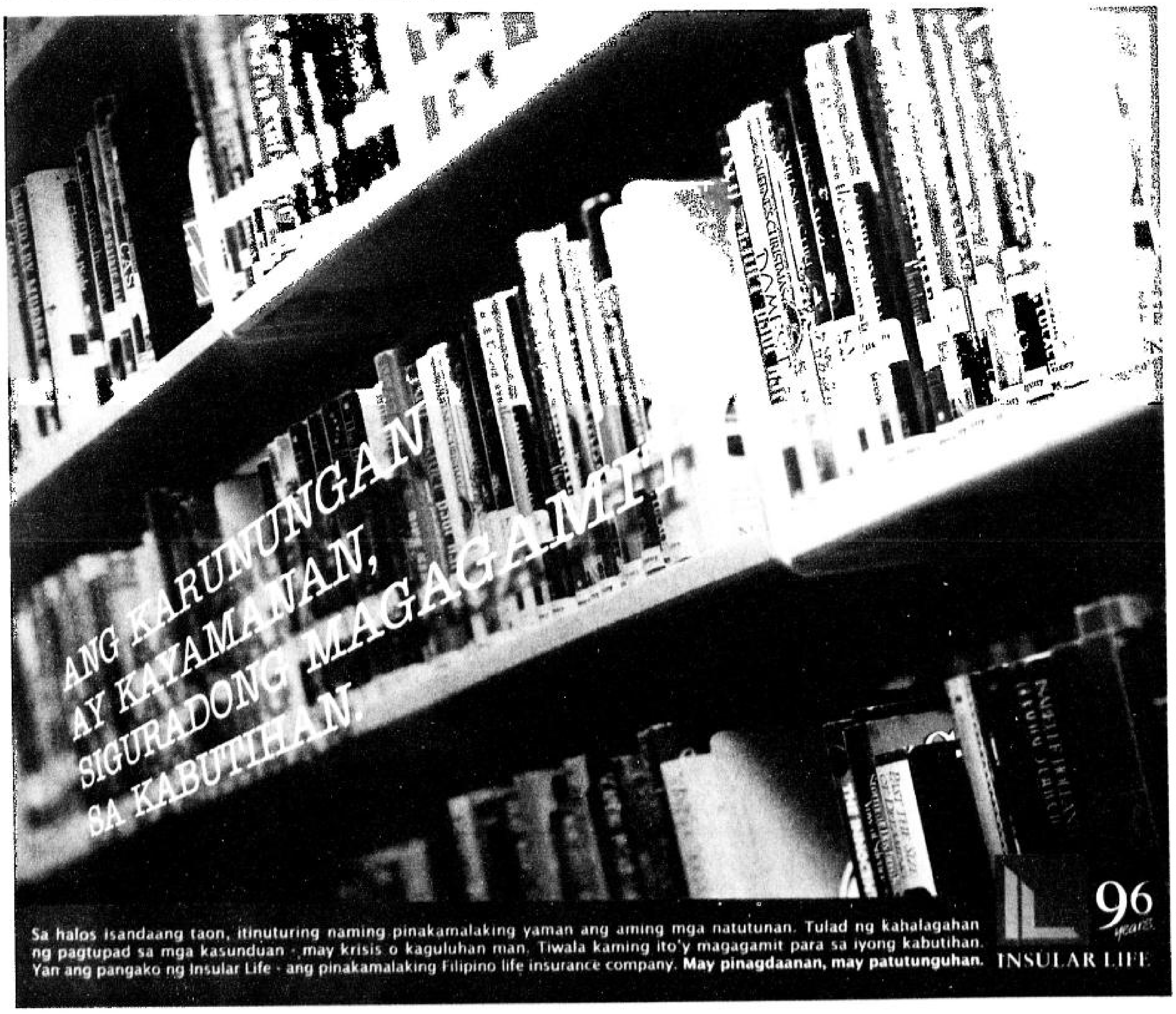
Insular Life 2005 net income up by 20%

Insular Life, the largest Filipino life insurance company, realized a consolidated net income of P1.46 billion last year, 20% higher than the 2004 level of P1.2[illegible] billion.

Vicente R. Ayllon, chairman and CEO, attributed the healthy results to better asset quality, improved matching of investments to product liabilities, higher dividend income from a strong portfolio of equity investments, administrative cost savings from a more efficient customer servicing platform and improved production from alternative distribution channels.

Citing Insular Life's financial stability and 96-year record of delivering on its contractual commitments, Ayllon said these factors have enabled the company to withstand the widespread erosion of public confidence in certain financial institutions that was brought about by the difficulties of leading pre-need companies.

Ayllon added that despite the political turmoil and difficult economic conditions in 2005, Insular Life generated gross premiums of P7.2 billion, which was comparable to 2004 results. Total revenues stood at P10 billion on the back of premium income and strong investment performance which improved by 21% to P2.9 billion. Meanwhile benefit payments to policyholders increased by 5% to P4.1 billion. Total assets increased by P1.8 billion from P42.2 billion to P44.0 billion. Members' equity improved by P2.7 billion from P6.8 billion in 2004 to P9.4 billion by end 2005.



Sa halos isandaang taon, itinuturing naming pinakamalaking yaman ang aming mga natutunan. Tulad ng kahalagahan ng pagtupad sa mga kasunduan - may krisis o kaguluhan man. Tiwala kaming ito'y magagamit para sa iyong kabutihan. Yan ang pangako ng Insular Life - ang pinakamalaking Filipino life insurance company. **May pinagdaanan, may patutunguhan.**

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*Source: BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines 2005 (based on 2004 performance)

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Gokongwei firm to raise $475M for petrochem plant

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JG SUMMIT HOLDINGS INC. OF TAIPAN JOHN GOKONGWEI IS PLANNING to raise as much as $475 million in loans from multilateral firms and commercial banks to fund a proposed naptha cracker plant in Batangas City.

The plant is expected to have a capacity of up to 350,000 tons of raw materials for plastic.

JG Summit president Lance Gokongwei said the total project cost for the petrochemical project was estimated at $600 million, a portion of which—or between $450 million and $475 million—would be raised through "non-recourse" financing.

Under this type of financing, Gokongwei explained that it might not be necessary for JG Summit to guarantee the debt and that the project would largely be funded by loans from banks.

Gokongwei said the group was expected to come up with a financing scheme for the project this year. From the time JG Summit secures financing, the proposed plant will take four to five years to build.

A naphtha cracker would boost the revenue of the petrochemical business to $450-$500 million a year from the present $150 million, Gokongwei earlier told the INQUIRER business staff.

JG Summit's petrochemical plants "are running at just about 45 percent of capacity and the planned backward integration is expected to at least double that rate," he said.

A naphtha cracker produces ethylene and propylene, which, when further processed, yield polymers that are the raw materials for plastic. Another by-product, pyrolysis gasoline, or pygas, is used to cool and clean industrial gases.

The project was touted as viable, as a squeeze in petrochemical supply in the region was felt in the past amid rising demand in China.

JG Summit Petrochemical Corp., a subsidiary of JG Summit Holdings, decided to revive its cracker project to boost supply, which is currently imported from Singapore.

JG Summit's naphtha cracker project is meant to cut dependence on imported raw materials for plastic products.

The company first planned to build a cracker in the 1990s and had come close to financial closure before the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis set in.

The group was also asking the government to keep tariffs on petrochemical imports from Southeast Asia at between 7 and 10 percent for another 5 to 10 years.

Under EO 161, issued on Jan. 9. 2003, the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) Common Effective Preferential Tariff on petrochemical products was set at between 7 to 10 percent up to end-2004.

This was despite agreements under the Afta providing that duties on petrochemical products be reduced to 5 percent starting 2003.

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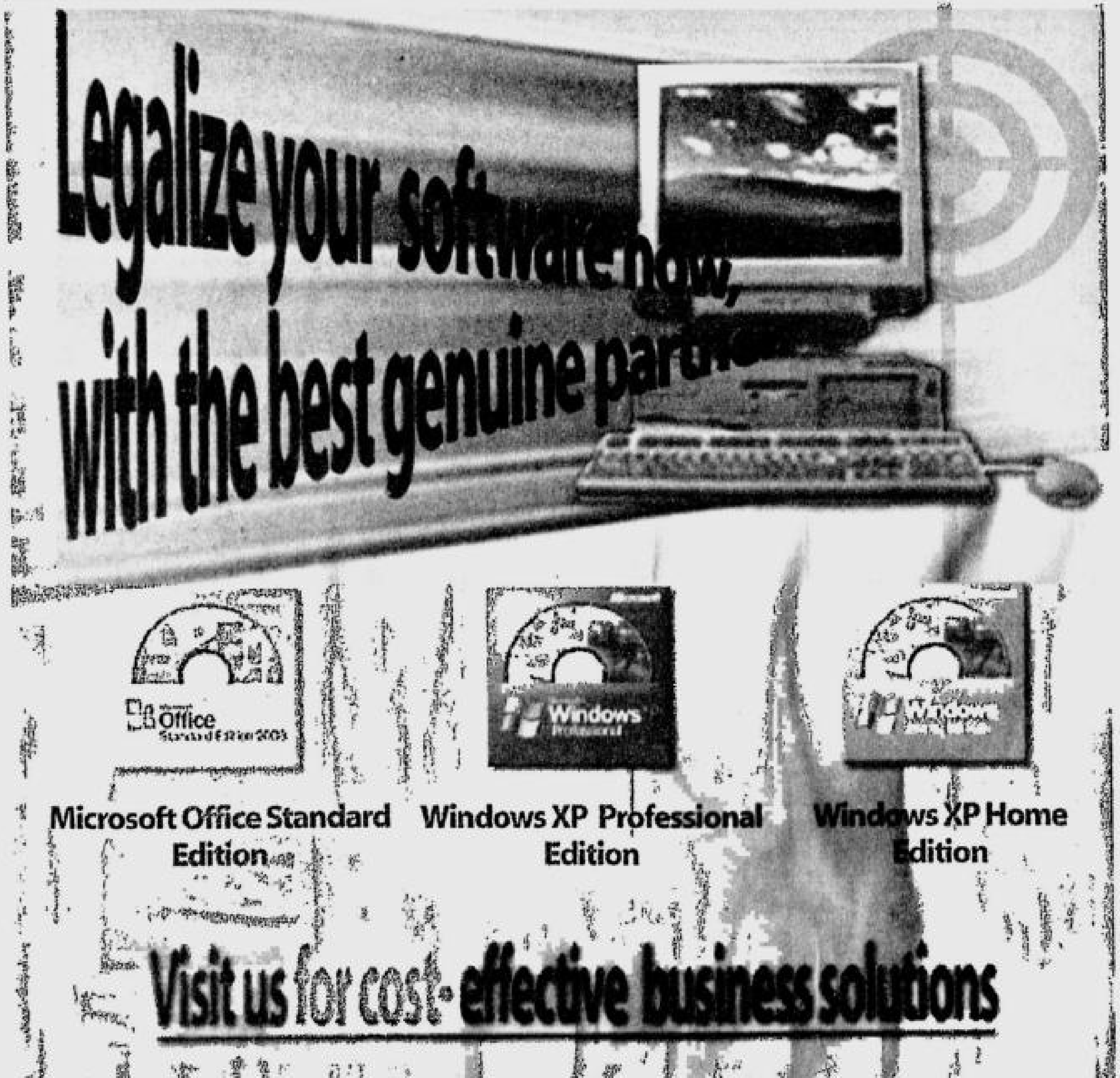
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DISCLOSURES

ALLIANCE Global Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 19, 9 a.m. at the Richmonde Hotel in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of July 19 are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

* * *

IMPERIAL Resources Inc. has postponed their annual stockholders' meeting originally set for July 13. The meeting has been rescheduled to July 27.

* * *

RAMON Sy has been elected director of **Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.** on June 28, replacing Vy Tonne So, who had resigned from the board.

* * *

JOHN L. Gokongwei Jr., James L. Go, Lance Y. Gokongwei, Lily Ngochua, Patrick Henry C. Go, Johnson Robert G. Go Jr., Ignacio O. Gotao, Gabriel C. Singson and Ricardo J. Romulo have been elected directors of **JG Summit Holdings Inc.** on June 28. Cornelio T. Peralta and Jose T. Pardo have also been elected independent directors of the corporation.

* * *

THE BOARD of directors of **Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.** has accepted the request for retirement of Bella Rozzana I. Buniel, vice president of the corporation, effective July 1. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 29, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	40,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	31	31	108,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45.5	45.5	1,272,600
China Banking Corp.	855	855	855	855	510
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71	72	71	72	148,700
International Exch. Bank	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	32	31.5	32	1,723,400
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39	39	39	5,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	3,600
Security Bank Corp.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	7,600
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	1,500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2040	2055	2040	2055	550
Ivantage Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	173,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	41	43	41	43	295,800
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	251,600
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14.25	14	14.25	20,600
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	21.5	21	21.5	188,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	784,000
Petron Corp.	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.7	2,815,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	23,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	601,700
Pancake House Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	5,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	50,500
San Miguel Corp. B	72	73	71.5	72	119,500
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	2,450,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.4	4,565,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	77,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.2	3,086,000
CHEMICALS					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	400,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	900,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	16,000,000
Ayala Corp.	342.5	350	340	350	187,680
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.55	260,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	16,439,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	6,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.82	1,048,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	8,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	599,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	11,490,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.55	3.55	3.5	3.55	1,119,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
Prime Orion Phils., Inc.	0.17	0.2	0.17	0.2	2,940,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	59,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	180,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	700,000
SM Investments Corp.	210	216	210	214	42,120
South China Resources Inc.	0.82	0.85	0.82	0.85	130,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11	11.25	11	11	2,687,500
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	1,250,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	60,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,380,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	67,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	60,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.58	30,880,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.032	0.034	0.032	0.034	6,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.22	1.3	1.22	1.3	19,899,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.44	1.36	1.42	12,622,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	1,000,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	350,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.9	100,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.3	3,949,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.56	160,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	10,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.22	993,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	900	910	900	910	86,780
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	2,775,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1730	1740	1725	1740	98,420
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.185	600,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.24	1.16	1.24	121,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	57,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	8,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,763,700
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	100,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	13,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	510,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1000	1000	1000	1000	90
Ipeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	63,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.92	1.94	1.88	1.94	188,000
Paxys Inc.	10	11.5	10	11.5	717,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	491,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	2,960,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	3,420,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.85	2,704,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.9	3.95	3.85	3.85	3,870,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	2,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.52	330,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,130,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	98,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	313,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	11,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	17.25	17.5	17	17.25	259,200
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	20,300

CURRENCIES

June 29, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.796305	1.000000	53.5140
Japan	Yen	0.006840	0.008590	0.4597
United Kingdom	Pound	1.448479	1.819000	97.3420
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102516	0.128740	6.8894
Switzerland	Franc	0.639192	0.802697	42.9555
Canada	Dollar	0.709593	0.891107	47.6867
Singapore	Dollar	0.498095	0.625508	33.4734
Australia	Dollar	0.579552	0.727802	38.9476
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.112271	2.652590	141.9507
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212320	0.266631	14.2685
Brunei	Dollar	0.496542	0.623558	33.3691
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020710	0.026008	1.3918
UAE	Dirham	0.216812	0.272272	14.5704
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.255800	67.2029
Argentina	Peso	0.257704	0.323625	17.3185
Brazil	Real	0.356687	0.447928	23.9704
Denmark	Kroner	0.134079	0.168376	9.0105
India	Rupee	0.017218	0.021622	1.1571
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216270	0.271592	14.5340
Mexico	New Peso	0.069756	0.087600	4.6878
New Zealand	Dollar	0.472220	0.593014	31.7346
South Africa	Rand	0.110444	0.138696	7.4222
Korea	Won	0.000831	0.001044	0.0559
Sweden	Kroner	0.108551	0.136318	7.2949
Syria	Pound	0.015340	0.019264	1.0309
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024391	0.030630	1.6391

National Bookstore . . .

From page B1

lic offering (IPO).

He said that NBS would only look at a possible IPO if it aggressively expanded into international shores.

"So far we have been funding our expansion internally. If we go international, we need to look at equity raising," he said.

Ramos also said that locally, NBS was planning to expand to 100 bookstores by next year from more than 90 today under its three major book brands—National Bookstore, Powerbooks and the convenience store-type NBS Express.

NBS is also keeping its eyes open for possible acquisitions. Founded by Socorro Cancio-Ramos and the late Jose Ramos, the company has evolved from its humble beginnings into the biggest and profitable bookstore chain in the Philippines.

The first National Book Store started in the 1930s as a small stall in Escolta before the Japanese occupation, selling supplies, GI novels and textbooks. During the 1950s, the Ramoses thought of producing a line of greeting cards and postcards with a Philippine motif. Later on, they acquired the Philippine franchise for Hallmark cards. It was also at this time that the couple began a publishing program with the help of international publishers such as McGraw-Hill, Prentice Hall, Lippincott and Addison-Wesley.

Between 1955 and 1970, NBS expanded rapidly to key cities nationwide.

Empowerment through transfer of technology

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

TWO DAYS AGO, I ASKED ONE OF THE world's leading mango experts, Dr. Hernani Golez, what his newest project was. He gave an unexpected answer.

"Empowerment," Golez said. "I am helping empower farmers through technology transfer."

Golez is the agricultural center chief of the National Mango Research and Development Center, Department of Agriculture (DA). He has been invited to many countries for his unique knowledge of mangoes.

He laments the fact that the 2006 budget approved by Congress for the Department of Agriculture is only P15 billion. This is less than half the P32 billion mandated by the Agriculture Fisheries and Modernization Act (Afma). Because of this, technology transfer though regular government channels has been quite limited.

Take a case in point. Ten years ago, Emma Santa Ana and members of her Kababaihang Barangay sa San Miguel, Bulacan (KBB) launched a greening program that would not only help the environment, but also provide additional income for farmers. Today, they have more than 1 million mango trees in San Miguel alone.

Better variety

But their income could have been much higher if the mangoes they planted were of a better variety. Today, if a KBB member wants to get a better mango seedling variety, the nearest place she can go to is the DA's Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) office in Manila, where she can get a maximum of only 100 seedlings.

Golez's new project is to empower KBB women in mango production through technology transfer.

"This particular model is not yet implemented in our country," Golez said. "It may therefore be a model to follow for other high value fruits such as *durian*, *rambutan*, guava and jackfruit."

Here is how it works: The technology must be transferred to an organized group of farmers. This way, the technology transfer is not given to just one farmer at a time, but to several farmers who can, in turn, spread it to their respective subgroups.

The KBB is such a group. It won a United Nations award for best women's rural development project in Asia in 1984, and again in 1989. Today, the KBB has 18,000 mango seedlings and 100,000 seeds. All of these will use the grafting technology transferred by Golez so that they will all be of consistently high quality.

Thinking 'out of the box'

Imagine the difference it will make for a KBB member—she need not go all the way to Manila to get 100 seedlings, but head straight for San Miguel, Bulacan, where she has access to 118,000 seedlings. The KBB will not only increase its income, it may also become a source of high quality seedlings in Luzon.

In terms of price, a typical mango seedling whose quality may not be guaranteed costs P80. But a seedling with guaranteed quality goes for an average of P175. The consumers will also benefit. Mango quality will be consistently higher and, because of the plentiful supply, prices may go down.

In this age of rapid trade liberalization where cheap unfairly subsidized imported agricultural imports threaten the livelihood of our farmers, we must discard our traditional practices and think "out of the box." The "government dole-out" mentality must be replaced by Golez's model of empowerment through technology transfer.

There is a need to reengineer our agricultural service delivery system that will allow the government to steer, rather than row. In the mango example, Golez said that BPI usually does the grafting and offers superior seedling to farmers. In some instances, when the meager budget resources permit, they transfer technology to a few lucky individuals.

But since this is often done on a one-on-one basis and implemented as a corrective measure, the impact is severely limited.

Far reaching

Golez's empowerment project has two distinctions:

- Technology goes to an organized group that has the capability of imparting the technology to a much wider population; and,
- The technology transfer does not occur in the middle of the process to correct a current practice; instead, it takes a systems approach that starts at the very beginning.

This way, potential inefficiencies in a multipart system are avoided, and productive synergies are attained.

Empowerment is often considered in political terms. But as Golez's example shows, economic empowerment may be even more far reaching.

The transfer of technology from one to another, which is often the case, is of very limited value. It is recommended that all technology transfer programs should require an empowerment dimension. This means that due importance should be given to social organizations, which will be empowered to transfer technology. Then, we will have a multiplier effect, which is badly needed in our liberalized trade environment with extremely scarce agricultural budget support.

For more information on this model, please call Golez at (033) 237-1319 or KBB Chair Ka Tinding Manuzon at (044)764-0200 or (044) 678-0609.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

Franchising is alive and well in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FRANCHISING HAS SEEN significant growth in the past couple of years, with more and more Filipinos getting into business while various financing facilities are being made available, according to an industry group.

In yesterdays' run of the monthly Good News Kapihan, data from the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. said that of 900 franchises in the local market, around 60 percent, or 540, are homegrown brands.

About two out of three franchises are in the food business, while the rest are in the service sector.

Franchising expert Armando Bartolome said that in the 1980s, there were only about 75 franchises. But he added significant growth in the number of franchises was seen only in the last few years.

"Filipinos are still cautious, especially in relating to franchisors (or those who are letting other entrepreneurs use their established brands)," said Bartolome, who is also president of consultancy firm GMB Franchise Developers.

"Franchisors, for their part, especially the foreign ones, have learned the value of adapting to local tastes and this has contributed to the dynamism and boom of the sector."

AFFI chair emeritus Pacita Juan said the availability of funding facilities—which also developed out of the responsiveness of lenders—was also driving the development of franchising in the Philippines.

The government-run Small Business Guarantee and Financing Corp., for instance, has continuously developed programs that address the needs of franchisors as well as franchisees.

SB Corp. has the Sulong program that suits well the funding needs of franchisors, especially in putting up commissaries—for those in the food business—and in expanding their operations in general.

Just this year, SB Corp. started the SME Feasible, which caters to start-ups who can borrow as much as P1.5 million each.

Asked about problems encountered by entrepreneurs in tapping loans, Juan said: "Funds are actually available out there. What is really difficult is preparing the required papers to apply for a loan."

She said SB Corp.'s programs are relatively liberal in that the agency accepts "soft collateral" like vehicles or golf shares.

Further, Juan said that AFFI is stepping up the campaign to lure families of overseas Filipino workers to put their money into franchises.

"For these people, there may come a time when spending for houses and durables will pass," she said. "That is when they will be better off turning into investors from being mere consumers."

The nine-year-old AFFI is holding a franchising forum and exhibiton at the SM Megatrade Hall in Mandaluyong City on July 7-9.

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Growth Fund - Peso	1.14395	1.12703
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2104	1.2181

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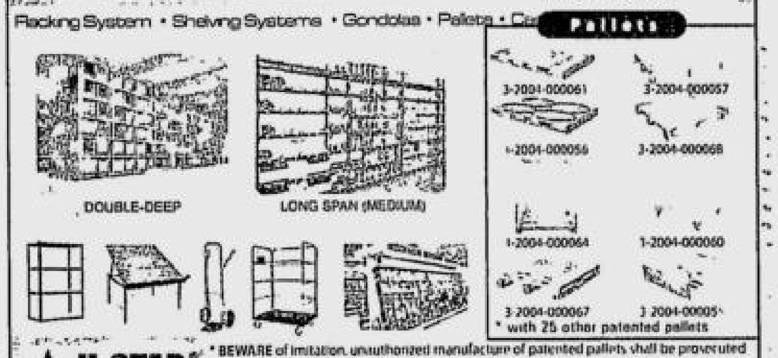

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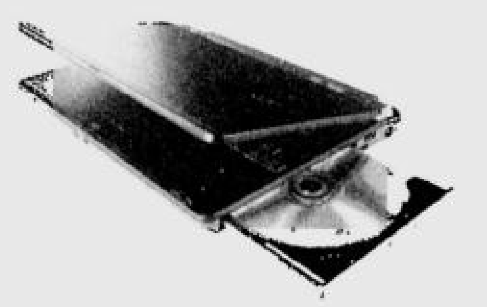

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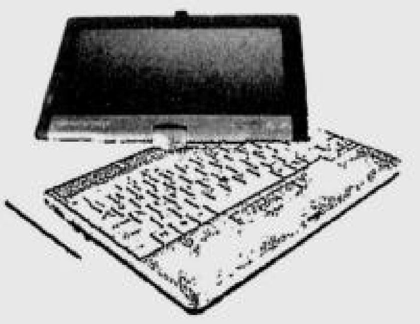

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ZOBEL DE AYALA

Ayala unit buying 11% of e-Telecare for ₱800M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA CORP. YESTERDAY SAID ITS NEWLY formed technology holding firm, LiveIt Solutions Inc., would acquire 11 percent of call center operator e-Telecare Global Solutions for P800 million.

In a statement, Ayala said the acquisition would be done through LiveIt's special purpose vehicle called New Bridge International Investment Ltd.

LiveIt Solutions is a holding firm formed by Ayala Corp. recently to handle its investments in the business process outsourcing sector.

e-Telecare started operations in 2000 and is one of the leading call center companies in Asia.

With over 7,000 employees in 12 call centers in the Philippines and the United States, the company posted $41 million in revenue and $3.3 million in operating income for the first quarter of 2006.

LiveIt seeks to invest in companies that provide complex non-voice outsource services and in research and analytic, legal, financial and healthcare industries.

The company plans to focus on BPO companies in the US, Philippines and India which have well-developed customer relationships in the international market and the potential to leverage Philippines' large pool of skilled professionals.

Ayala chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said: "We are very positive about this foray into the BPO sector. This is an area where the Philippines has a strong competitive advantage given our wealth of talent, strong communication skills and well developed telecom infrastructure. We are actively seeking additional opportunities that will enable us to provide highly value added services."

Ayala recently appointed Alfredo I. Ayala as CEO of LiveIt.

ROUND-UP

CebuPac's P99 seat sale

BUDGET CARRIER CEBU PACIFIC AIR INC. IS offering a "seat sale" of P99 per one-way ticket to any of nine domestic destinations for the next nine days, for travel over a 99-day period.

The P99 Seat Sale is available for flights from Manila to Butuan, Zamboanga, Roxas, Cotabato, Laoag, Dipolog and Cebu to Davao.

The sale period started Wednesday and will run until July 6, 2006, for travel during the off-peak season from July 15 to Oct. 21, 2006.

The P99 one-way fare is for immediate payment upon booking and is exclusive of surcharges and government tax.

Like all the airline's previous seat sale events, the latest round will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Daxim L. Lucas

Law firm inauguration

NEWLY FORMED GERODIAS SUCHIANCO ESTRELLA Law Firm or GSE Law Firm will have its formal inauguration on June 30, 2006 with a thanksgiving cocktail reception for clients and friends.

GSE offers a broad and integrated range of services involving both domestic and cross-jurisdictional laws in the fields of corporate, taxation, litigation, labor and immigration.

Founding partners Raul G. Gerodias , Dimples Nicolas-Suchianco and Toby A. Estrella offer the benefits of years of experience gained from active law practice.

The firm's other lawyers are Rhonda P. Miranda, Che-lin G. Mascardo, Grace Vilchez-Custodio, Joey A. Ramos, Gem L. Sandoval, Jan T. Ailing and Loy Saldaña-De Leon.

Book on RP cities, provinces

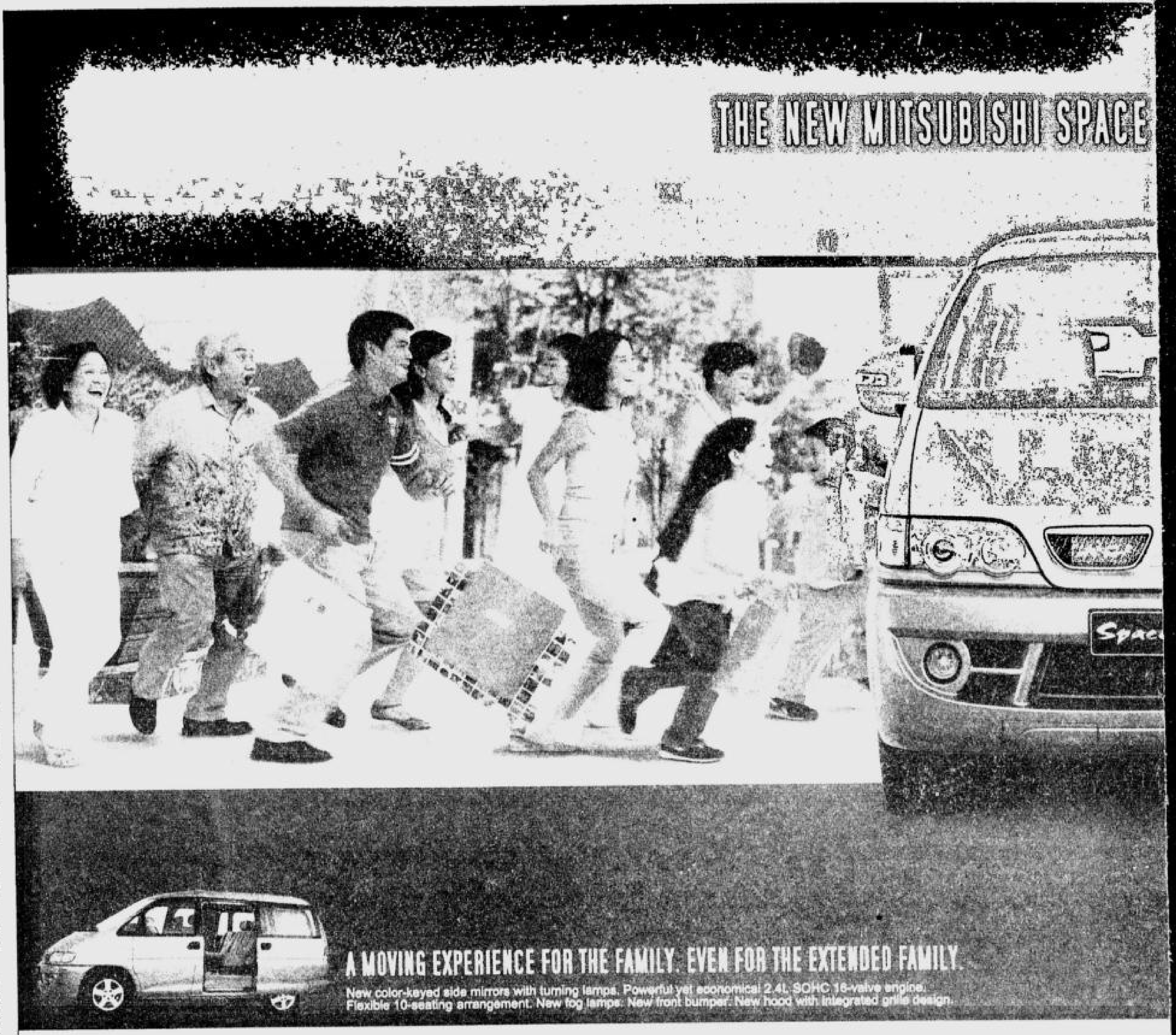
SUPERBRANDS PHILIPPINES, which showcases top brands in the local market, is coming out with a book that will help boost investment and tourism in various cities and provinces in the country, organizers said yesterday.

Marissa Aguilar, president of Superbrand Marketing International Inc., said the coffee table book, dubbed "Outstanding Cities and Provinces of the Philippines," would extol the attractions of various places in the country.

Aguilar said OCPP was aimed at showing to domestic and international audience the commercial and leisure merits of a select group of cities and provinces.

"In the process, OCPP would become a research guide to places in the Philippines that are compelling to invest in or visit," she added.

Ronnel W. Domingo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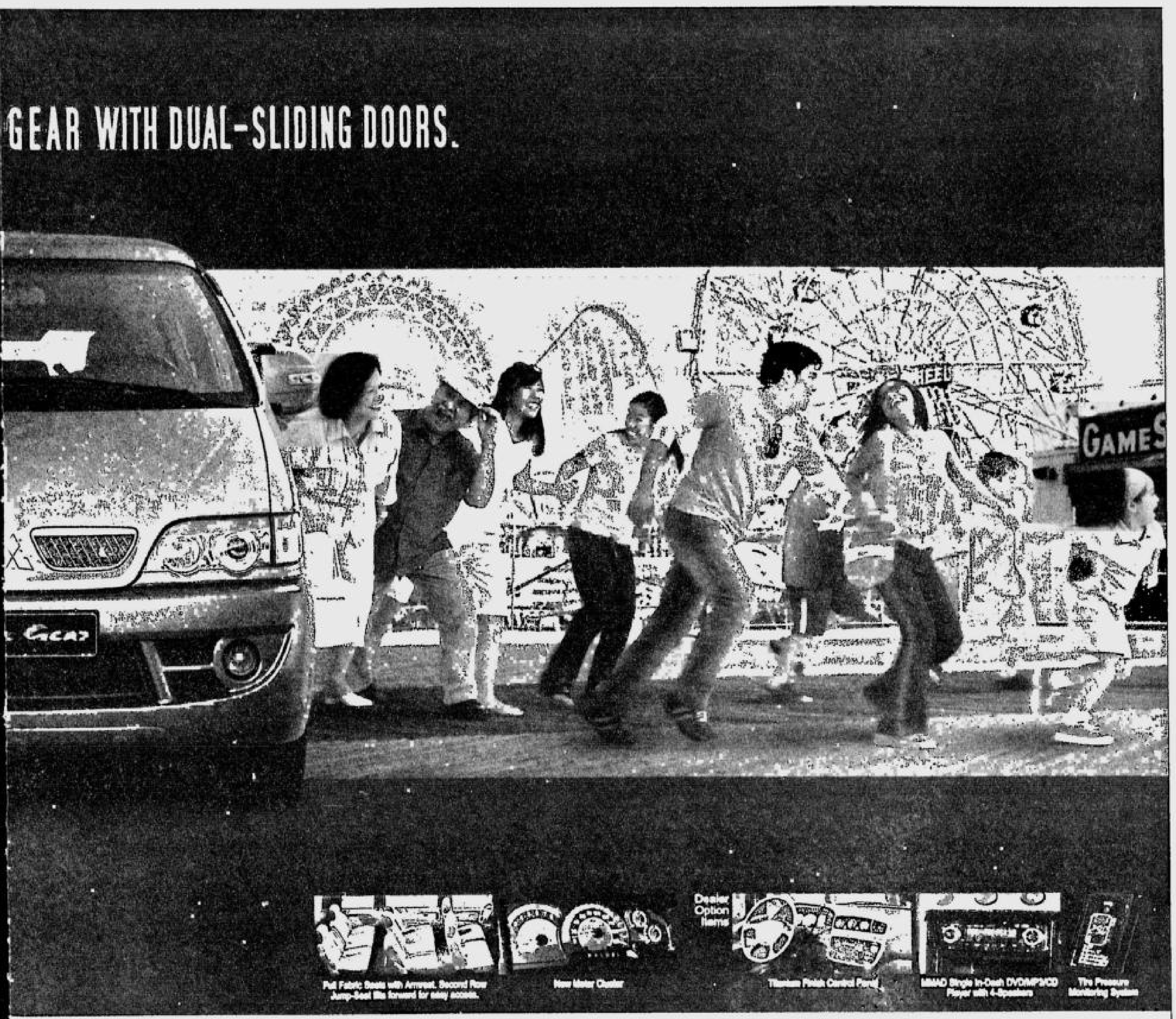
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7 groups keen on Transco concession

By Abigail L. Ho

SEVEN ENTITIES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST to bid for the 25-year National Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession, which is scheduled for auction in September.

Of the seven groups that have submitted their letters of intent to Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), five have secured bid documents that included the following: Bidding procedures, data room rules, index and compact discs containing pertinent data about Transco, and a summary of the information memorandum that carries primarily technical data on Transco assets.

The groups that had already acquired these bid documents could now start conducting due diligence on Transco.

Other interested investors have until July 18 to submit their letters of intent to bid for the Transco concession.

In an earlier interview, PSALM president Nieves Osorio said several investors were interested in the concession.

She said those were Filipino firms with foreign partners, including Canadian and American companies.

Singapore Power, the lone bidder in the two failed auctions for the concession held in 2003, had opted out of the race, she said. The company, however, is considering becoming a technical partner.

The Energy Regulatory Commission's recent release of Transco's regulated asset base for the second regulatory period helped spur investor interest in the concession, she said.

She said this was because Transco's RAB would allow potential investors to predict future cash flows in terms of expenditures and revenues.

It would likewise give prospective investors an idea of how the ERC would actually implement the transmission wheeling rate guidelines.

The ERC placed Transco's RAB at P138 billion at the start of 2006. This would be the basis for the state firm's maximum allowable revenue which, in turn, would determine the transmission wheeling rates, the main source of revenue for the winning concessionaire.

CebuPac seen resuming flights to Singapore

By Daxim L. Lucas

BUDGET CARRIER CEBU PACIFIC AIR INC. plans to resume regular commercial flights to Singapore by August once it receives the approval of aviation authorities of the island state.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday evening, Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei expressed confidence that the approval from the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) was forthcoming.

"I'm not sure where we are [on the negotiations for the Singapore flights] but we are just awaiting their approval [for an operating permit]," he said. "We don't expect any major issues [that will hinder the plan]."

Gokongwei said the airline would fly to Singpaore on a daily basis.

Cebu Pacific used to operate regular commercial flights to the island state with its leased Boeing 757 aircraft but was forced to scrap it in 2003, three months after launching the service, due to failure to attract enough flyers.

Gokongwei did not elaborate on why the airline, which was still operating at a loss as of last year, decided to re-launch its Manila-Singapore service.

Industry watchers are speculating, however, that Cebu Pacific's renewed interest in the route was brought about by the launching of a purpose-built terminal at Changi Airport that caters to low-cost carriers.

Because it caters to budget flyers, the CAAS charges lower fees on airlines using the terminal.

At present, only Tiger Airways is using Singapore's budget terminal, which was built to accommodate 2.7 million passengers a year.

Also, Cebu Pacific may also have to start flying to Japan before the end of the third quarter or risk losing its entitlement from the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB).

According to an official of the CAB, Cebu Pacific has until Sept. 15 to launch flights to Japan or face a mandatory "reallocation" of its entitlements.

A total of seven flight entitlements were granted to Cebu Pacific for the Japan route two years ago, but the airline has yet to start commercial services for any of the routes.

"CAB will reallocate [some of] its entitlements with a thrice a week flight to Pacific East Asia cargo airline if Cebu Pacific will not use it," the official said, requesting anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the issue. "If we recall the frequencies and the time comes when they will need them, they will have to reapply."

The airline remains mum on plans to fly to Japan although Gokongwei did say earlier that more flight to North Asia are being explored.

In the meantime, Gokongwei said that the airline would soon start flying to Hong Kong more frequently.

"We are trying to get 21 time a week [to Hong Kong] fairly soon," he said. The airline already flies to the former British Crown colony 17 times weekly.

By August, Cebu Pacific will have completed the first phase of its refleeting program, retiring all of its 1960s-era DC-9 aircraft in favor of brand new Airbus A319s and A320s.

Solon seeks changes in setting revenue targets

Disputes seen to occur as soon as authorities enforce Lateral Attrition law at the end of '06

By Michelle V. Remo

A LEGISLATOR IS URGING FISCAL AUTHORities to review the system of setting revenue targets, warning that flaws in the system may prove costly, especially now that the Lateral Attrition Law is in effect.

Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, said that revenue targets are set without the consent of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and other revenue-collecting agencies.

Citing the tax collection shortfall of the previous months, Lapus said disputes could occur once authorities begin to enforce the Lateral Attrition law by the end of the current fiscal year.

The law provides a mechanism for the granting of monetary incentives to revenue-collecting agents who will meet their individual targets, and for the imposition of penalties—such as displacement from work—for those who will fail to meet their goals.

"Unless the ones being rated understands the goals set, this attrition may [prove] dysfunctional," Lapus said in an interview.

The alleged flaw might affect "the morale of employees and thus defeat the purpose of the Lateral Attrition Law," he added.

The law was put in place supposedly to encourage revenue-collecting personnel, Lapus said during the launching of the book "Taxation of Financial Institutions in the Philippines" by Benedicta Du-Baladad, a partner at Punongbayan & Araullo.

Lapus said that currently, the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) considers the government's expenditure requirements and macroeconomic assumptions in determining the required revenues for a given year.

But the DBCC, which sets the government's economic policies and targets, does not take into account the opinion of the BIR and other revenue-collecting agencies in the setting of revenue targets, Lapus said in his defense of Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag.

Buñag has been battered by criticisms for the BIR's failure to meet its tax collection targets in the past months despite the implementation of several tax measures, such as the hike in the value-added tax and income tax rates.

Fiscal authorities have insisted on the tax hikes, despite its unpopularity among consumers and businesses, believing that this would help put the government's fiscal house in order.

The Bureau of the Treasury, which reports the national government's monthly fiscal performance, earlier announced that the BIR collected P268 billion in taxes in the first five months of the year.

The figure was P4.2 billion short of the P272.2-billion target for the January-to-May period.

The BIR, being the national government's main source of revenue, is hard pressed to meet its P675.4-billion target for the year.

The government set the target with the view of reducing the budget deficit to only P125 billion this year. The budget gap stood at P146.8 billion last year.

But Buñag earlier complained about the pressures being exerted on the BIR to compel it to meet its monthly targets. He blamed the recent cancellation of auctions for Treasury bills and bonds for the lower-than-programmed tax collection.

Buñag said the cancellation resulted in lost potential collection of documentary stamp taxes on government securities.

"One should not be punished for things that are beyond his control," Lapus said, referring to Buñag.

Mining firm wins environmental points from gov't

By Christine A. Gaylican

SAGITTARIUS MINES INC. (SMI) APPEARS to have won the respect and praise of Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes for putting in place an environmental protection program even before the start of its actual operation of the Tampakan copper-gold project in South Cotabato.

In a statement, Reyes said that SMI's effort to breed endemic tree, plant and insect species within the project area showed the mining company's commitment to preserve the area's biodiversity.

"[SMI] has gone extensively into environmental projects even before the start of actual mining operations," Reyes said.

The Tampakan project is still in its pre-feasibility stage. SMI holds a Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) with the government to develop a 27,945-hectare area covering parts of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur.

The area is believed to hold the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposit in Southeast Asia.

During his visit to the project site, Reyes led the symbolic release of multicolored butterflies bred by SMI in Tampakan.

"We can see social preparation being done, and the project gaining social acceptance, empowering the people." Reyes said, citing SMI's initiatives to enhance health and education conditions, as well as livelihood skills among communities within the project area.

"In this way, the company grows with the people, and the community can share in the success of the company—and vice versa."

Tampakan Mayor Claudius Barroso said that the host towns and communities of the Tampakan project are waiting for the mining operations to start.

"This is because we are convinced that the project will bring in unprecedented socio-economic development to our area," Barroso said.

Along with community and local government leaders, the B'laan chieftains of the host tribal groups Tablu, S'bangken, Bong Mal, Folubato, Salnaong, and Danlag, expressed their support for the project.

Upon conclusion of the pre-feasibility study later this year, SMI will decide whether or not to push for a full feasibility study, said Paul Dominguez, SMI president and CEO.

Dominguez said that if things were to proceed as scheduled, actual mining operations could start in 2010.

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1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) through the Department of Education has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) last December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the proposed construction of various School Building Projects in Bislig City. Disbursement of the ODA Loan from JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of Loan Agreement PH-P200. No party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds.
2. The Local Government Unit of Bislig City now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to enter into contract based on award for the Construction of the following listed projects:

School/Location	SEDIP Building Type	Scope of Works	Construction Duration
1) Bislig NHS-Mabog Extension Brgy. Mabog, Bislig City	1) SS-Three Classroom Bldg with Toilets	See volume I, Instruction to Bidders Section IB-1 2	90 CD
	2) SS Science Laboratory Building	-do-	
	3) SS-Home Economics Building	-do-	
	4) Water Supply - Rain Collector Tank		
2) Bislig NHS-Maharlika Annex Brgy. Maharlika, Bislig City	1) SS-Library w/ Guidance & Faculty Bldg.	See Volume I Instruction to Bidders Section IB-1 2	65 CD
3) Bislig NHS-Bucto Extension Brgy. Bucto, Bislig City	1) SS-Home Economics Building	-do-	65 CD
4) Bislig NHS-Tumanan Extension Brgy. Tumanan, Bislig City	1) SS-Home Economics Building	-do-	65 CD
5) Bislig NHS-San Jose Extension Brgy. San Jose, Bislig City	1) SS-Home Economics Building 2) Water Supply - Rain Collector Tank	-do-	65 CD

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the JBIC's Local Competitive Bidding procedures and is open to all Bidder's from eligible source countries as defined in the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans".
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 4,500.00 for Item #1, and P1,500 for Item #2,3,4, & 5 from the SEDIP-NPMO, DepED Division of Surigao del Sur and the BAC Office of Bislig City The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative, which will be issued on June 24, 2006 to July 12, 2006.
5. The BAC-Bislig City will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on 2:00 P.M.; July 14, 2006 at the City Engineering Office Conference Room, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur.
6. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the City Engineering Office, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur on or before 2:00 P.M., July 26, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security as indicated in Volume 1 of the Bid Documents Late Bids will not be accepted. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) will only be disclosed by BAC after the opening of bids in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or its authorized representatives who choose to attend the opening of bids.
7. JBIC requires that all bidders and contractors as well as the LGU and DepED-SEDIP, shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts in pursuance of this policy, JBIC.
   a). will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recomended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   b). will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time if it, at any time determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt of fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing another contract financed in part from JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
8. The BAC of Bislig City reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) MR. WINSTON Y. SIA
Name and Signature of the BAC Chairman
or Authorized Representative of the BAC Chairman

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If you are interested in becoming an AMA volunteer, or if you would like to support the AVP, please call Gamay Solis at AMA Philippines Foundation, Inc. at Assumption College, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. Telephone 817-07-57. Email ama_phils@yahoo.com. Website: www. ama.org.phv

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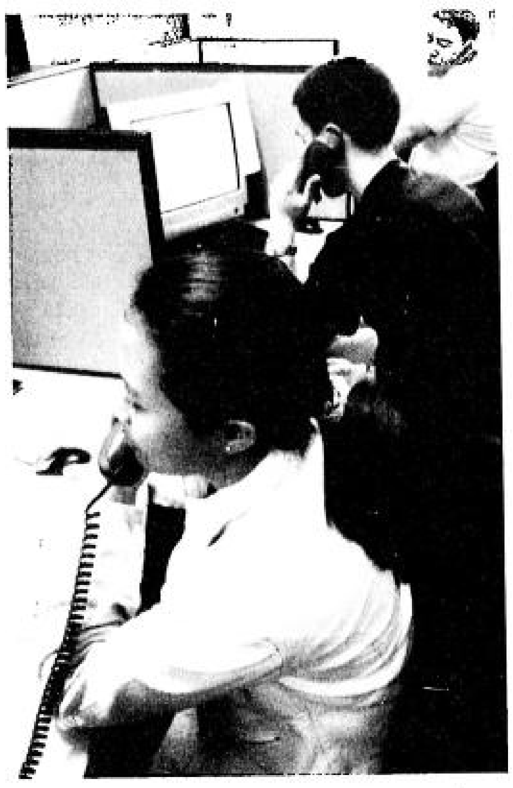
Call centers dangle fatter paychecks for skilled few



TO ACQUIRE the services of skilled workers, officials of call centers are now offering hefty freebies such as sign-in bonuses, travel benefits, and free gadgets like mobile phones and MP3 players.

Official says 120 firms tap the same talent pool that is not getting any deeper

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CALL CENTERS ARE TURNING MORE and more to gimmicks and gadgets—even offering bigger wages—to reel in the few skilled workers still looking for jobs, according to an industry official.

According to Raffy David, a director of the Call Center Association of the Philippines, about 120 outsourcing outfits are tapping the same talent pool that is not getting any deeper, and human resource directors are feeling the pressure.

David said in an interview that for every 20 applicants who get accepted for the job, only one gets to show up for work.

CCAP estimates show that the number of call center workers would grow 60 percent to about 179,000 by yearend, and would continue to grow to some 506,000 by 2010.

David said some firms, in a bid to snap up the skilled ones, are dangling fatter paychecks and bigger loot bags.

He said newspaper advertisements, online job sites as well as job fairs still attract applicants. But more and more call centers are tapping spots on television, magazines, radio, streamers and even billboards to lure jobseekers.

"Some try out party-like events, like ClientLogic, which organizes events and bring in (musicians) to attract potential employees," David said.

Another firm, TRG, held a speech contest and image modeling tilt with $1,000 at stake.

"Others offer freebies such as sign-in bonuses, travel benefits, and free gadgets like mobile phones and MP3 players to (get people)," said David, an officer of Pilipinas Teleserve Inc.

According to David, one of the most effective means of recruitment is still "word of mouth," or a referral system that offer incentives to those who recommend possible recruits.

David said, for example, that eTelecare and PeopleSupport offer something between P1,500 and P5,000 for every successful hire.

"One of them claims that about a quarter of its workforce was signed up through this referral program," he said.

David went on to cite one firm's "audacious tactic," which was to put up "a team in a basketball league."

"TeleTech says it costs less to maintain a basketball team—the TeleTech Titans at the Philippine Basketball League—than buying weekly full-page newspaper ads," David said.

Although the call for unionization in the sector is now being sounded, market-driven salary and benefits systems still prevail," the CCAP official said.

He said that the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno has referred to call centers as "air-conditioned hubs for exploiting workers," while the party-list group Kabataan described the work as "degrading and fit (only) for prisoners or summer interns."

David said a poll conducted by the University of the Philippines' School of Labor and Industrial Relations indicated that "more respondents are open to join unions to better negotiate for salaries."

"Interestingly, unionization can help stem attrition and job-hopping since members are given a bargaining power and are provided a forum to resolve work-related issues," David said. "Ironically, the apparent transient nature of the job is hampering efforts to organize unions."

He also said that, since salaries and benefits adjustments are market-driven, workers are less motivated to organize unions.

Bayantel mobile phone business dream still alive

By Daxim L. Lucas

BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC. (Bayantel) of the Lopez family has asked regulators to extend its cellular mobile telephone service (CMTS), which may indicate that the firm has not yet given up on its dream of entering the lucrative mobile phone business.

Officials of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) remain skeptical about the cash-strapped firm's on again-off again interest to operate a wireless network, but have nonetheless agreed to give Bayantel the benefit of the doubt.

In a message to reporters, NTC Commissioner Ronald O. Solis said his agency has invited Bayantel representatives to a "clarificatory hearing" for the latter to be able to detail their plans to regulators.

"[Bayantel is] asking for another extension of the provisional authority for a CMTS [license] for another three years, or until 2008," he said.

Solis did not hint whether regulators were inclined to grant Bayantel's request for an extension of its mobile phone license—which it has never used—although NTC's technical staff had already recommended against it in an internal memo circulated earlier this year.

According to the technical committee's review, Bayantel's CMTS network plan was originally based on GSM (global system for mobile communications) technology. But it has since been modified to a CDMA (code division multiple access) system.

The shift was supposedly made to facilitate the migration of existing second-generation mobile phone users to the new third-generation system.

"Since Bayantel is proposing to change its CMTS technology platform from GSM to CDMA, [we] requested the company to submit its new detailed technical plan," the memo said. "However, despite several requests, the applicant's submission was incomplete."

The study concluded that Bayantel's lukewarm response to the NTC's repeated requests for a detailed technical plan showed that it was no longer interested in entering the mobile phone business.

Despite this, the company maintains that it remains committed to entering the field dominated by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and its rival Globe Telecom Inc.

Still deep in debt, Bayantel has yet to get out of the red. Its parent firm, Benpres Holdings Corp. has been actively looking for a buyer for Bayantel.

Bayan readying ...

From page B12

ning Secretary Romulo Neri, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Trade Secretary Peter Favila.

Another deadline extension, Bayan said, would "only add to the legal troubles of PSALM officials."

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said the only logical thing for PSALM to do today would be to draw from the $14-million performance bond posted by the YNN consortium.

"Whether or not YNN pays up tomorrow, there has already been a breach in the agreement," Reyes said in a statement yesterday.

But both Osorio and Lotilla were resolute in defending the asset sale.

"We can defend before any court our asset purchase agreement. Our process is very clear and transparent," Osorio had earlier said.

Lotilla added that the transaction was not only transparent, but also aboveboard and not at all disadvantageous to the government.

Apart from the two deadline extensions granted the YNN consortium, Reyes also scored PSALM officials for giving themselves P10 million worth of incentives for their achievements in the Napocor privatization efforts.

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Manny Pacquiao avenges his loss to Erik Morales, knocking out the Mexican in the 10th round of their fight in Las Vegas. Story on Page 16.
INSIDE COMPACT
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Watching in theaters: The next best thing. Page 15
moment, warring to cheer. Page 4
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RP's consumption-driven economy boosts franchising

THE COUNTRY'S CONSUMPTION-DRIVEN ECONOMY will propel the franchising industry to unprecedented heights, according to the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA).

Citing the impact of the franchising industry on the economy, being at the forefront of the supply chain and the principal link to direct consumers, PFA chair Bing S. Limjoco said franchising would continue to be an engine of growth today and in the future.

"Franchising is redesigning the commercial landscape of, not only the metropolis, but also the urbanizing consumption centers in the provinces, and bring about infrastructure development in all those areas," Limjoco explained.

"As the catalyst and matrix of successful new business concepts, franchising will hasten industrial and agriculture modernization as dictated by consumer needs and competently noted by franchise outlets nationwide," Limjoco added.

She said the franchising industry had begun cashing in on the ongoing tourism boom, which could also generate new franchise businesses. "This shows the role of franchising in economic expansion in whatever field and at the national, regional and international levels," Limjoco pointed out.

Limjoco is partly referring to local and global franchises that will be showcased at the Franchise Expo 2006, featuring new and exciting franchise concepts and suppliers, more trade visitors, and business opportunities.

International networking

Slated at the World Trade Center from July 14 to 16, Franchise Expo 2006 will provide participants with international and local networking, onsite marketing and sales, extensive promotions, and thousands of prospective clients who have decided to invest in a franchised business.

Last year, the Franchise Expo generated more than P200 million worth of businesses and almost 20,000 visitors, 46 percent of which were from top and middle management.

Organized by the Philippine Franchise Association, this 14th Franchise Expo is co-presented by PLDT Business Solutions, supported by the Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation and the World Franchise Council, and sponsored by Francorp, Julie's Bakeshop, Max's Restaurant, San Miguel, Furnicon, Montanara, Quali Plus, Goldilocks, Greenwich, HSBC, Red Ribbon, and Chowking, with Araneta Center, Ayala Center, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Robinsons Malls as participating malls, and Entrepreneur and 89.1 as media partners.

One-stop shop

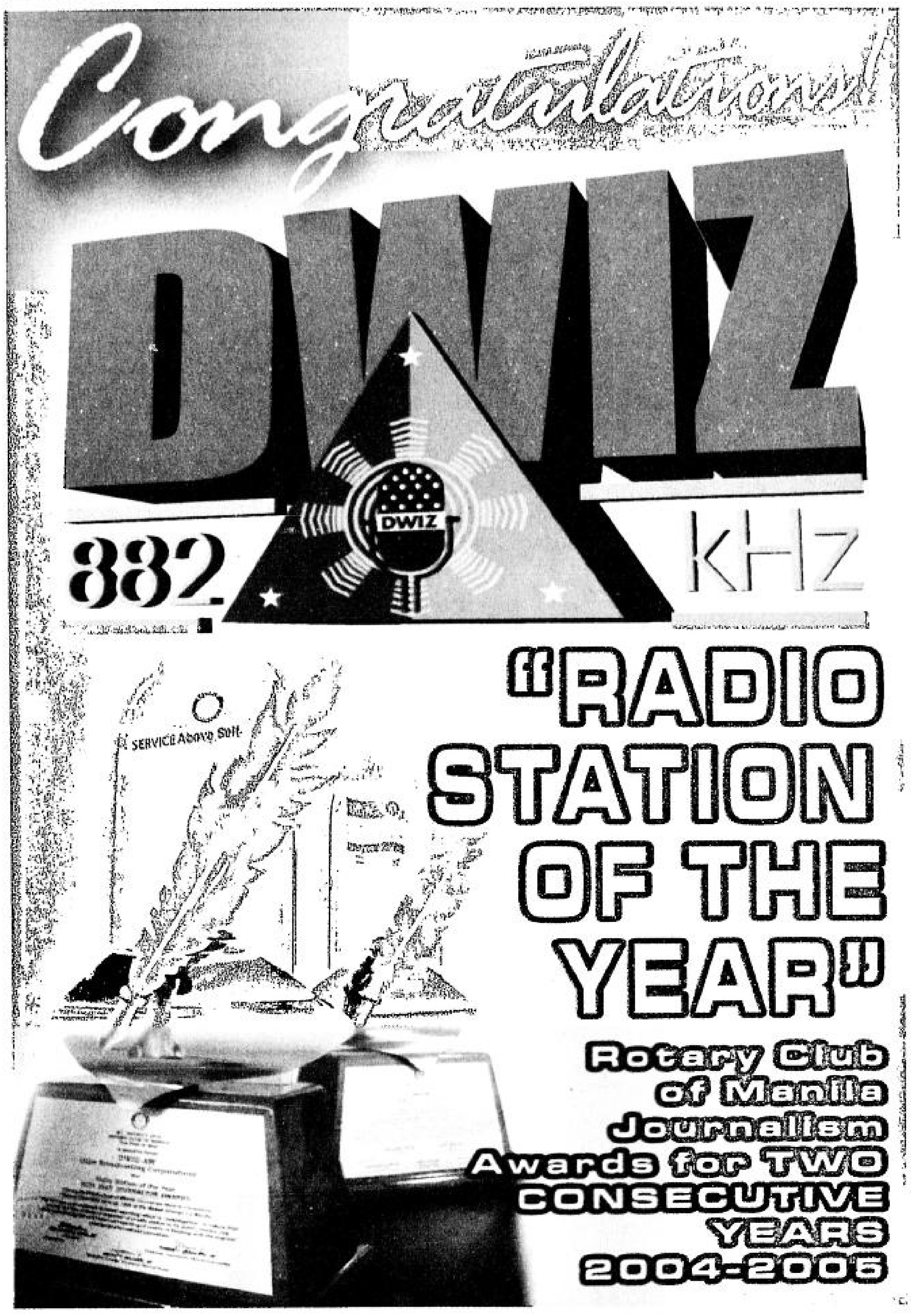
A one-stop shop, the expo houses the country's biggest exhibition of successful brands and business opportunities for entrepreneurs.

"We see more growth projected in franchising due to greater regional expansion of malls and the improving purchasing power and changing lifestyles of Filipinos," Limjoco said, citing the expo as a venue to assist potential franchisors among the country's startup companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Other expo details can be obtained from exhibit manager Worldexco (891-8638, 834-7408; fax 834-0608; or e-mail mktg@worldexco.com), or the PFA secretariat (687-0365 to 67).

Franchise Expo is the country's premier and longest-running franchise event that now spans 14 years. Through this annual international event, the PFA spearheaded the growth of the Philippine franchise industry, from only 50 franchises in the early 1990s to over 850 in 2004.

"This growth has directly led to the increase of industry sales turnover from just $936 million in 1997 to over $2 billion last year," Limjoco said.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A DAY OF FRESHNESS WITH PH CARE

pH Care Fresh New You promo grand prize winner Sheila Marie Sangalang enjoyed a day of freshness with pH Care. She won a cool P100,000 in cash, a free spa treatment, a makeover, and a romantic dinner with tinsel town's heartthrob Jericho Rosales. Sheila Marie Sangalang was one of the countless pH Care users who eagerly participated in the promo. 'The Fresh New You Promo is our way of thanking our growing number of pH Care users for their continued patronage,' says Ingrid Evidente, pH Care brand manager. 'We're excited at the very positive response of the consumers to this promo and rest assured, we'll continue to come up with more promos in the future.'

MANILA JAYCEES TREATS BASECO TONDO KIDS

Shown is Manila Jaycees director Mark Ong, chair Williamson Nocom and members with the Baseco Tondo children posed with their great smile during their tour at the Manila Zoo, wearing their T-shirt with the slogan 'Batang Nagbabasa, Batang Matalino'. This has been one of the projects of the Manila Jaycees-the first and premier leadership organization in Asia and the Philippines that is geared towards community service. Its objective is to promote and encourage the children to read. A successful storytelling was conducted with the help of a professional storyteller from the Alitaptap Storytellers Philippines held at McDonald's Intramuros. There were also arts and crafts, singing, dancing and games that the kids truly enjoyed. The Manila Jaycees donated food to the family of the children and also gave books and school supplies with the help of Barangay Chair Teresita Lumactud.

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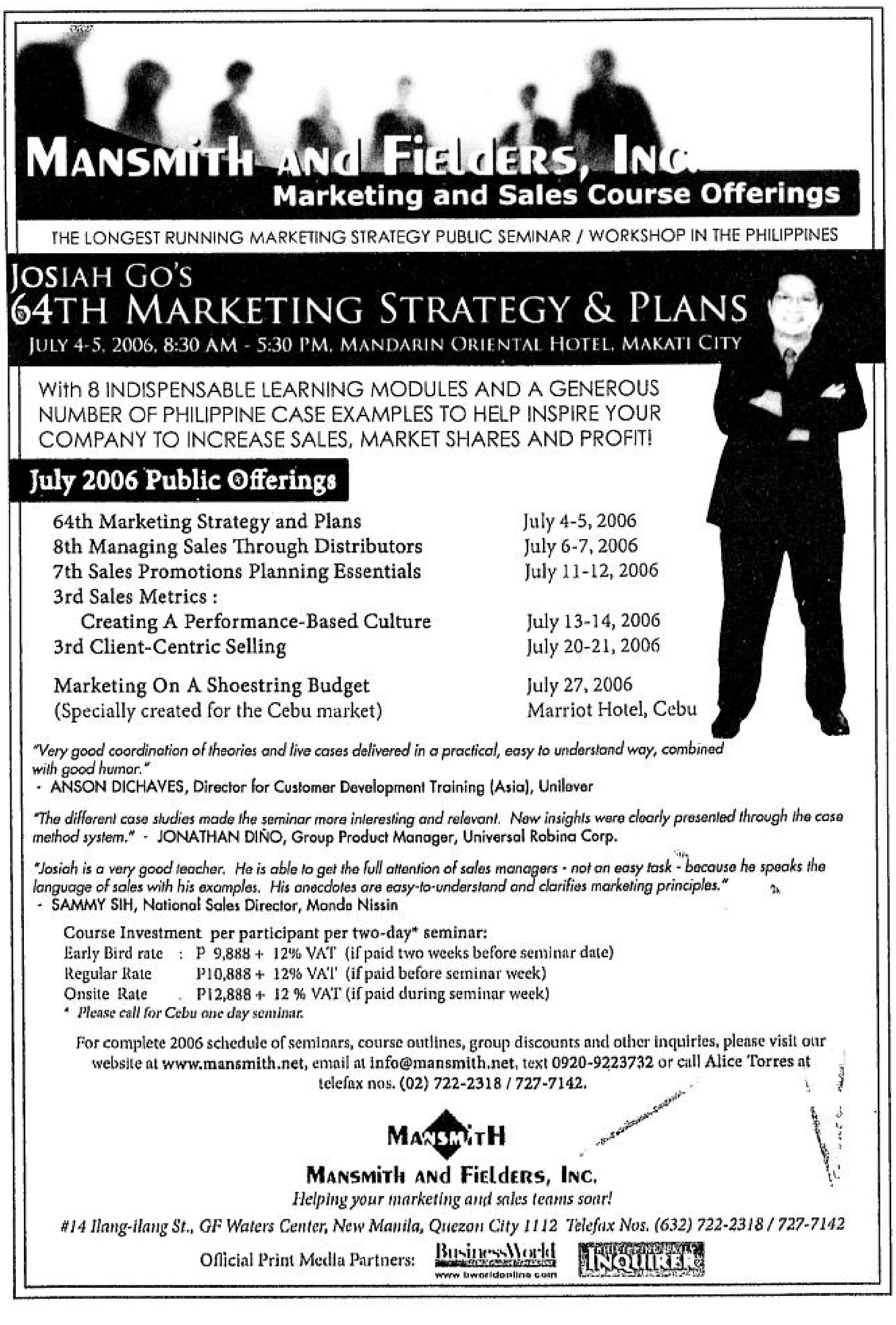
KITARO RECIPIENT OF GLOBAL BRANDS PHILIPPINES AWARD

Kitaro, the 'good food, great value' Japanese casual dining restaurant, was the recipient of the Global Brands Philippines award in ceremonies held at the World Trade Center in Pasay, Metro Manila. Phillip Chuachiaco, quality assurance manager of Kitaro, received the trophy in behalf of the resto-chain which has more than 40 outlets serving the public authentic Japanese food at affordable prices. Previously, Kitaro was also adjudged the most outstanding Japanese restaurant by the National Consumers Awards and top sales performer by the SM Malls. Shown are Chuachiaco (3rd from left) with (from left) Gov. Justo Ortiz, Sec. Roberto Pagdanganan, presentor Josephine Gomez, Rev. Sonia Lim, and Global Brands officer Jonathan Navea.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Marketing On A Shoestring Budget (Specially created for the Cebu market)	July 27, 2006 Marriot Hotel, Cebu

"Very good coordination of theories and live cases delivered in a practical, easy to understand way, combined with good humor."
- ANSON DICHAVES, Director for Customer Development Training (Asia), Unilever

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INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), as Project Sponsor, is hereby inviting prospective challengers/bidders to submit their Letter of Intent expressing interest for the "Swiss Challenge" of the proposal to Finance, Design, Construct, Operate and Maintain the 18.9 kms North Luzon East Expressway (NLEE), Stage 1, Segments 1 & 2 "La Mesa Parkways" (La Mesa at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City - San Jose del Monte, Norzagaray, Bulacan), using the Water Sensitive Urban Tollroad Technology, to include the catchments, swale filtration, production, storage and distribution of raw water, submitted by the Ausphil Tollways Corporation, the original proponent of the project through the Unsolicited mode of the Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) Scheme.

The proposed bidding shall be conducted and facilitated together with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as Co-Sponsor and Implementing Agency, and governed by the BOT Law (RA No. 7718) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and revised.

Submission of the Letter of Intent shall not be later than 17 July 2006 and addressed to:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. No. 922-2568 / 928-5691

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - June 30, July 7 & 14, 2006)

The South Luzon Tollway Corporation

announces an

INVITATION TO APPLY and to BID

THE SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY REHABILITATION AND WIDENING PROJECT

(CIVIL WORKS SERVICES)

SOUTH LUZON TOLLWAY CORPORATION invites civil work Category "AAA" contractors to apply for prequalification eligibility for the proposed rehabillitation and expansion of the existing toll road from Alabang to Calamba (28.53 km.).

Interested contractors may pick up the prequalification documents at the following address:

SOUTH LUZON TOLLWAY CORP.
(SLEX) South Luzon Expressway Project
6th Floor Mobile Entertainment Center (formerly Jaycem Bldg.)
104 Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

(PDI–June 30, July 3 & 5, 2006)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND PRE-QUALIFICATION

The Barangay Ayala Alabang invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the:

CONSTRUCTION OF BARANGAY HALL
at Ma. Cristina St., Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City

DATE	July 6, 2006
TIME	8:00 AM
WHERE	AAVA Community Center Narra St., Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City

Submit certified true copies of the following:

- Company Profile
- SEC Registration (Corporation)/DTI Registration (Sole Proprietorship);
- License to Operate (Mayor's Permit);
- ITR for the last two years (stamped by BIR);
- Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 years;
- VAT/E-VAT/NON-VAT Registration;
- List of clients/projects with their respective telephone numbers and addresses;
- Certification of dealership from authorized distributor or agency agreement.

Submission of the above requirements shall not be later than 11:30 am of July 3, 2006, at the Barangay Ayala Alabang office, Narra Street, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila. Telephone no. (02) 8072472/8423554; E-mail: brgyayala@yahoo.com; Website: brgyayalaalabang.com.

All pre-qualified Bidders shall be notified as to when and where the Bid Proper will be held. Only firms that are pre-qualified by Barangay Ayala bids and Awards Committee shall be invited to participate.

The Barangay Ayala Alabang reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defects therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd) **FRANCISCO A. UMALI, SR.**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--June 30, 2006)

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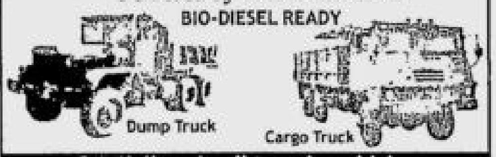

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AGUSAN DEL SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
Tel Nos (085) 343-8455, 242-3280
Telefax No. (085) 839-2275

INVITATION TO BID

The Agusan del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc., an electric cooperative with Main Office address located at San Francisco, Agusan del Sur, invites all qualified suppliers to bid for the purchase of one (1) unit brand new 5 MVA Power Transformer; Brand - Shihlin, Taiwan.

Pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on July 12, 2006, 9:00 in the morning at the ASELCO Main Office Board Room, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur. Opening of sealed bids shall be done on the same date and venue at 1:00 in the afternoon in the presence of bidders' representatives, Procurement, Bids, and Awards Committee, and witnesses. Bidders are required to pay a non refundable fee in the amoun of Php 1,000.00 for the bid documents.

Interested bidders may visit the office or call Engr. Leonilo A. Lolong, PBAC Chair for more information.

(Sgd.) **URSULO E. ANUTA**
Manager

(PDI--June 30 & July 1, 2006)

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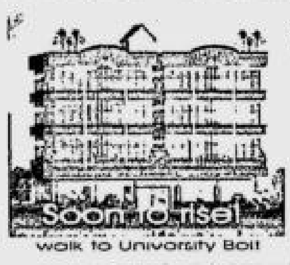

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'Fashion Issues'

THE LASALLE COLLEGE International at the Bloomingdale Building, Salcedo Street, Makati City, is presenting "Fashion Issues" today, 7:30 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club. It is the 2006 graduation fashion show of students who have successfully finished the two-year International Diploma in Fashion Design.

LaSalle College International newly appointed director-general Dr. Norma Cruz is confident that these fashion design graduates are fully equipped with all the technical training and design exposures they need in carving a mark in the fashion scene today. Cruz adds that " the comprehensive international Fashion Design program designed by the LaSalle College International headquarters in Montreal, Canada is successfully being adopted and applied by its team of able faculty members headed by program director Thelma Badon".

"Fashion Issues" will feature signature styles and debutante collections of eight outstanding young students. Under the direction of Gerry Katigbak, LaSalle College is the only International Fashion School in the country.

OBITUARIES

Maria Abancio Japzon

of Calbiga, Samar

who joined her Creator
on June 28, 2006 at the age of 84.

Her loving sisters **CONCEPCION ABANCIO DARADAL, GASPARA ABANCIO DARADAL**, and brother **ATTY. ILDEFONSO S. ABANCIO** and wife **VICENTA ROSALES ABANCIO**, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Premiere 1 Chapel, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Masses will be held on Friday & Saturday at 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, July 2, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Premier 1 Chapel. Interment follows at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

CONSUELO RUNEZ CORONEL

Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 28, 2006 at the age of 71.

Her loving husband, **Narding**; children, **Bradley** and **Doris, Alfred, Diane** and **Bong**; grandchildren, **Bryan, Mari** and **Cheska**; brothers, **Richie** and **Rudy** (†); sisters, **Rose, Fin** and **Merci** give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of her life.

Her remains lie in state at the Mr. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on July 2, 2006 after the 1:00 a.m. Mass at the La Funeraria Paz Crematorium.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again." – 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Into Your Hands, I commit my spirit, redeem me O Lord,
The God of Salvation. PSALMS 31:5

Engr. Ricardo R. Policarpio

of Navotas, Metro Manila & Guinobatan, Albay
Former Director, National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)

November 24, 1914 – June 27, 2006

Wife: **Corazon Carillo,**
Daughter: **Nieva 'Bunny' P. Garcia,**
Son-in-Law: **Lito Garcia**; Grandchildren: **Alexis, Monette & Jun Romualdez, Lorelei & Michael Tan, Isadora & John Jacinto** and **Great Grandchildren;**
Parents: **Simeon** (†) & **Modesta** (†);
Brothers and Sisters: **Felizardo** (†), **Abelardo** (†), **Baby** (†), **Conde, Pepe** (†), **Ruben** & **Dra. Teofie Dionisio;**
Relatives and Friends join in prayer for his eternal repose in heaven.

His remains lie at the Magallanes Church Memorial Chapel, Magallanes Village, South Super Hi-Way (SLEX), Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 2, 2006 after 2:00 P.M. Mass at the Family Mausoleum at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

A Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Natividad Contreras Gonda

who peacefully joined her Creator
and her beloved husband Leandro "Ding" Gonda
on June 22, 2006 at the age of 83.

Her children: **Arthur & Maribel, Dr. Yolie & Dante (†), Sonia & Little, Fr. Jojo, Lanibel & Pitoy;** her grandchildren: **Edward & Marisol, Anne & Dr. Gene, Vanesa & Atty. Dick, Kristine, Angel & Menchie** and **Jonathan, Dr. Kutch, Glenda, Bimbo** and **Red, Kevin** and **King;** her great grandchildren, **Sabine** and **Amelie, Chino, Justin, Maru** and **Naia, Joshua** and **Regina**

Sincerely express our gratitude to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers, condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Gov't lowers borrowing target for Q3

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS REVISED its domestic borrowing program for the third quarter of the year to only P84 billion, lower than the original plan of P104.5 billion, following the posting of budget surpluses in the previous months.

The new borrowing target for the third quarter is 37 percent lower than the P132.6 billion worth of domestic liabilities posted in the same period last year.

According to the Bureau of the Treasury, the third quarter borrowing would be undertaken through the issuance of P42 billion worth of Treasury bills and P42 billion worth of Treasury bonds.

BTr to raise P84B via T-bills, bonds issuance

T-bills are short-term government securities with maturity of one year and less, while T-bonds have tenors of more than a year.

The BTr said the auctions for T-bills and bonds in the third quarter would be held fortnightly.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz had said the borrowing program would be flexible depending on the government's cash position. He said the government was inclined to cut down its borrowings to remain consistent with the medium-term goal of debt reduction.

The BTr earlier reported that the national government posted a P5.8-billion budget surplus in May, which followed the P17.6-billion surplus in April.

These brought down the government's five-month budget deficit to only P44.2 billion, 35 percent lower than the P67.8 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The surpluses came despite shortfalls in tax collections. They were attributed to controlled government spending and the postponement of plans to maximize expenditure limits to help pump-prime the economy.

The government has set a budget deficit ceiling of P125 billion for the entire year, but fiscal authorities said it was not difficult to achieve a lower deficit figure because of the over-performance in the previous months.

The P125-billion deficit goal this year is 15 percent lower than the P146.8-billion budget gap recorded in 2005.

The government's economic team has set a goal of further trimming the deficit to P63 billion next year and to zero by 2008.

Bayan eyes supplemental complaint vs PSALM

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE MALAYSIAN CONGLOMerate Ranhill Bhd is ready with the $227-million down payment for the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant, its remittance is hinged on the completion of a power supply agreement with Manila Electric Co.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Gary Makasiar, spokesperson for Masinloc winning bidder YNN Pacific Consortium Inc., said the Malaysian financier was committed to the transaction and had the resources to pay for the plant.

"But, of course, they are concerned about the market. If they are confident about the (wholesale electricity spot market), then there will be no problem. But we're not even sure if the Wesm is now fully functioning, so we were forced to go to the distribution utility," he said.

He added that Ranhill would have to exercise "business prudence" in making a final decision whether to remit the down payment to Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. today.

"We'll really try to settle everything, meet the deadline but (Ranhill) is really concerned about the market. They wouldn't want to lose $14 million (performance bond), but they also don't want to let go of $227 million just like that," he said.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), for its part, said it would file a supplemental complaint to the graft case it lodged against officials of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) if they would give another deadline extension to YNN for the remittance of the down payment.

The YNN group, the winning bidder for the Masinloc plant, has until today to remit the $227-million down payment, which is 40 percent of its $561.7-million bid for National Power Corp.'s generation asset.

The original deadline was Dec. 2, 2005, or 270 days after the bidding. This was extended to March 31 and, again, to June 30.

These undue concessions prompted Bayan to file graft charges against PSALM officials, including president Nieves Osorio, vice president for asset management and electricity trading, Froilan Tampinco and board members Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Economic Plan-

BAYAN/ B9

Text gaming primed for growth

THE COUNTRY'S GAMING INdustry is hitting new highs as more and more companies turn to short messaging service or 'texting' through mobile phones to reach out to customers.

The country is already ahead in Southeast Asia in terms of generating business for online gaming. Research firm IDC said the online gaming market in the Philippines grew by 72 percent in terms of revenue in 2005.

Total subscription revenues reached $15.56 million, the research outfit said.

And while the Internet has provided many companies and consumers with a new platform to play with, "texting" is seen as an even bigger medium given the huge subscriber base of Smart Communications, the country's top mobile phone operator.

The latest text gaming promo to hit town is Mano Milyonaryo, a text betting game introduced by Text Entertainment Games in partnership with ABS-CBN for the July 2 bout between local boxing hero Manny Pacquiao and Mexican Oscar Larios.

E-Games launched Mano Milyonaryo last Monday.

The Pacquiao-Larios text betting game gives Filipinos a taste of Las Vegas-style betting with a twist—the bets are typed on a mobile phone and sent to the mobile operator.

A text bet costs P10. Registrants—only 21 years and older can join—are entitled to P20 worth of free load.

Participants can bet by typing MANO<space>P (for Pacquiao), L (for Larios) or D (for a draw) and send to 7168 (Smart).

Fourteen names who picked the correct bet will be drawn randomly at the raffle draw on July 7 at the Casino Filipino office in Paranaque. E-Games and other sponsors have put up P1.5 million in cash prizes for the raffle.

RP furniture exporters fear losing markets

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE EMERGENCE of new suppliers of furniture in the world threatens the market share of Filipino furniture exporters.

Michael Basubas, president of the Cebu Furniture Industry Foundation Inc. (CFIF), said Vietnam had overtaken the Philippines as a furniture supplier in the world market.

"In 2000, Vietnam was behind us. Now, they're ahead of us," Basubas said.

Vietnam, which started overtaking the Philippines in 2003, posts an average market share of 0.78 percent yearly from 2000 to 2005.

In contrast, the Philippines accounted for only 0.54 percent, according to a CFIF study.

CFIF director Laurie Boquiren, citing the results of the study, said that while the country's furniture exports had been dropping, those of other Asian countries were growing.

From $316 million in 2002, the Philippines suffered a 12-percent drop in furniture exports in 2003, Boquiren said. In 2005, the amount further dropped to $304 million.

Cebu's furniture export performance also experienced a downturn, with its share of the country's total exports dropping from a high of 70 percent in the 1990s to only 40 percent last year, Boquiren said.

Tecline in the country's furniture exports was blamed on fierce competition particularly from China and Vietnam.

She said the shrinking market share could also be blamed on the government's unfriendly trade policies and the inconsistencies in the implementation of rules.

The private sector, for its part, failed to upgrade their factories, she added.

While the Philippines has been known for its design capability, she said the country might soon lose this advantage since other Asian countries had been hiring Filipino designers and technical people.

In China, Boquiren said, there was an organization of furniture designers and technical people with 500 all-Filipino members, 10 of the designers were from Cebu.

Insurers seek tax cuts

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION said it would back calls for the rationalization of taxes imposed on the insurance industry, saying the tax burden had been making insurance products unpopular among Filipinos.

Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said her office was supporting the proposal of insurance firms seeking the reduction of the taxes imposed on the industry.

"If you compare our industry with those of other countries, we'll see how heavily we are taxed," she said.

This and the lack of public education on insurance protection hindered the sector's growth, she said

The industry specifically wants changes in the manner by which documentary stamp tax is imposed on insurance policies.

At present, a 50-centavo DST is slapped on every P200 worth of insurance and is collected every time the premium is paid. The industry wants the DST collected only upon payment of the first premium.

Escobillo agreed with the industry, noting that in other countries, the DST was based on a per-insurance-policy basis and not on a per-premium-payment basis.

Non-life insurance companies also want the value-added tax on reinsurance service lifted. They said reinsurance transactions were intended merely to distribute risk arising from an existing insurance policy, which was already taxed. *Michelle V. Remo*

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

AL AND LAURA Ries, authors of marketing concepts that have sparked debates. Their books are available at National Bookstore.

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Top authors hold sway in brand building conference

(First of two parts)

By Dante Velasco
Contributor

THE CONFERENCE was simply billed "Al Ries' Brand Marketing Conference," featuring the renowned Rieses—Al and daughter Laura. It was organized by Salt & Light Ventures. The 1,070 participants, who paid P10,000 (for the early birds) to P12,000 each to attend the conference, were given a Workbook—a 56-page study guide which contains a treasure trove of "immutable laws of branding."

I met Al and Laura one day earlier at a function room at the Philippine Plaza, one hour after their plane touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Ardy and dad Ned Roberto ("Social Marketing" co-author of Philip Kotler) of Salt and Light and I had a lively exchange on the duo's publishing business and consulting practice.

One immediately noted an articulateness, passion and energy in the two authors who have spoken in 55 countries around the world, and published books with combined number of copies sold placed at more than a million. Their "Positioning" book alone sold half a million.

And to think that another title, "Rock," was also considered. Al however chose "positioning" because it is "more dynamic," it can serve as verb and noun, and it aptly describes the process.

Another bestseller, "The Fall of Advertising and the Rise of PR" kicked up a lot of controversy, generated reams and reams of reviews, and changed the way marketing, advertising and PR practitioners went about building and maintaining brands. "The book had its shock value," Al volunteered, adding that they "managed the perception of the readers quite well."

Speaking of "shock value," Al revealed that one word in the original title of the book was even more shocking: "death." Thanks to the advice of an "Advertising Age" editor, "The Death of Advertising" did not see the light of day!

So, the father-and-daughter tandem that spoke at the jam-packed ballroom came with their reputation preceding them. At the hall itself, Al and Laura held sway, one after the other in clockwork precision, pacing the stage without a podium, expanding on every law in branding—as if they were (because they probably are) "natural laws."

Al, without notes, was commanding with clear confident voice, born of ideas he knows by heart because they are his, and dealing with every case of success or failure—either because they followed the "laws" or violated them.

Laura was a deserving member of the tandem, with a compelling and arresting presence, and was alternately serious, witty and teasing at the same time. The crowd remembered every dig at product failures or "line extension" efforts (Al and Laura advise against them).

Laura, criticizing "line extension," charmed the audience with her wit: "Guys want to play like Michael Jordan (of Nike fame) but who wants a cologne in his name."

Or this piece on "Virgin" wedding dresses, Laura was in her teasing mood: "There may be a market for such dresses in the Philippines, but there's ZERO market in the US." Laughter.

The whole-day conference was a marketing event, by all indications. Al and Laura had the audience in their palm.

I was seated beside my professor at AIM, Dr. Ned Roberto, and asked him if it would help if the tandem could present research data on which to base their conclusions that have become "immutable laws."

Ned's reply: "The audience love stories and anecdotes—and that audience romance with them explains the success of Ries and Ries!

Then my respected market and social research professor quickly added: "Could you imagine how more powerful Al and Laura would be if they have that kind of research!" The point was well-delivered.

But the crowd was in no mood for academic discipline. They just wanted to learn at the feet of two marketing masters—spanning two generations—making "immutable laws" alive with their stories of market triumphs and disasters, and preaching the classic concept of "Positioning"—and, yes, their new gospel on "divergence."

Again, the Ries family is taking issue with another well-established concept on "convergence." Will they succeed? Recall that they re-defined the role of advertising and PR, and people sat up and listened. With their sheer intellectual energy, their wealth of stories, and their keen eye on the changing patterns in the marketplace—they can command a formidable following.

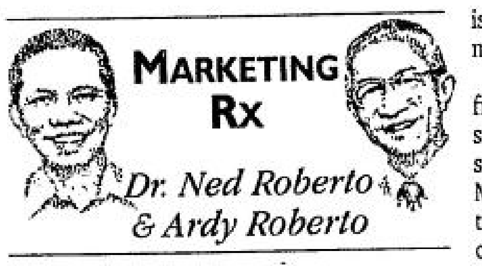
And this "following" are readers, conference participants and CEOs in desperate search for answers as they get clobbered in the market.

When Al and Laura steps into readers' minds or into vast conference halls—and into the CEOs' executive suites, they bring the time-tested strategy of positioning (under the general concept of Focus).

Readers receive a shaft of dazzling light of understanding, halls full of people are energized to try it the "Ries way"—and every CEO comes away with a new idea that will turn his market upside down and his sales charts rising to unprecedented heights.

The good news is the Ries tandem delivers. The Brand Marketing Conference ended at five in the afternoon; a long queue of participants were formed for an autograph session with the speakers/authors; and the more than a thousand attendees will never be the same again.

What are the long-term effects of sales promos?



MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: Do you have data on what are today's most used (and we assume, the most effective) sales promo events and activities in the consumer market? Do you have data on what's the real sales effectiveness of promos? By real, we refer to the long-term promo sales effects as against its short-term or immediate sales effects. Our own experience is that practically all of our sales promos give us immediate sales increase. But later, sales of the promoted brand gets back to its previous sales level and even lower. Is our experience typical or specific to us?

A: Here's the answer to your first question. As we've said in our May 19 and 26 column (our columns are archived on Inq7.net/money), sales promotion activities are many and growing in number and variety. But at any given time, there are only about half a dozen or so that are in most used.

Most effective sales promo is not most used

ACNielsen Philippines in a 2006 industry paper, "Promo Power!," reported there are seven such most-used promo activities: premium-on-pack (POP), premium-in-pack (PIP), price-off or discount, product sampling, raffles, extra product giveaways, and promo girls deployment.

In POP, the premium item (or product) is found attached on the package of the sales promoted brand. In PIP, that premium item is found inside the sales promoted brand's package.

ACNielsen reports the premium-on-pack (POP) counts as 82 percent of all promos implemented in the Visayas, 70 percent in Mindanao, and 52 percent in Metro Manila. While POP is the most used promo, ACNielsen found that it is price off or discount promo that is most effective in increasing sales—on the average around 5 percent.

This brings us to your second question: "what is the true, long-term sales effectiveness of sales promos?"

You are correct in distinguishing between sales promos' immediate sales effects versus its long-term effects. And you are right in saying that the "true" sales effectiveness is in the long-term.

Your observation of sales patterns over time is good. But it's incomplete and that's why you could not find the answer to your second question. So if your sales observation over time is complete, you'll get a better answer.

What you can do for a complete sales observation is to divide your observation time period into four parts: (1) the period before the start of your sales promo campaign, (2) the period during the campaign, (3) the period immediately after the end of the campaign, and (4) the period following when things "settled down."

In terms of sales pattern, each period will manifest its own particular and distinctive sales pattern.

Period 1, the before-the-campaign time-line, will show a sales trend that's either rising, steady or flat, or declining. The longer this time line is, the slower will be the rising or declining trend. You need this period's sales pattern as your reference sales baseline or what you referred to as your "previous sales level" before the promo campaign.

You compare the promo campaign's post launch sales effects to this baseline. It functions like your control group data in an experimental design for an effectiveness evaluation research.

Period 2, the during-the-campaign time line, will show an inverted U-shape sales curve that starts with an immediate sales increase, then a peaking of that sales increase, and then followed by a sales decline till the end-point of the campaign period. Studies of this period's sales increase (including ACNielsen's) have found that the sales increases during this period come from two sets of simultaneously executed consumer purchase behaviors.

Consumer purchase behavior on sales promos

The first is consumer brand switching purchases. Consumers of other brands get tempted to buy and then try the sales promoting brand.

The other source of the sales increases is the current consumers of the sales promoting brand.

To take advantage of the incentives from the sales promo, they move their scheduled later period purchases of their sales promoting brand to this period. Many of them also decide to buy more than their usual volumes. Because of this combined consumer purchase behaviors, the size or area of this inverted U-shape sales curve is typically larger than the size or area of the sales dip curve in the next period, Period 3.

Period 3, the immediately-after-the-campaign time line, will show a U-shape sales dip that continues the sales decline at the end of Period 2, then shows a leveling out of the sales decline, and then a sales rise up to or above or below the sales baseline.

According to the same several available sales promo effectiveness studies, the total sales decline of this period practically all comes from the brand's current consumers' decisions to move forward to Period 2 their scheduled later period purchases plus the decision by many of these consumers to also buy more.

This is why the area of this sales curve is smaller than that of the sales curve in Period 2. In other words, over the three periods, this sales dip cancels out the sales rise from this moving forward consumer purchases in Period 2. When you deduct this sales dip from the Period 2's total sales rise you get the net sales from brand switching.

Period 4, the return-to/above/below-the-sales-baseline time line, is where the sales trend shows either: (1) a slight rise in sales above the brand's sales baseline; (2) a return of the sales line to the baseline, or (3) a slight fall in sales below the sales baseline. What determines which sales trend will prevail?

Studies tell us what will prevail is a function of how much repeat purchase comes out of the brand switching. If a good proportion of the switchers stay and repeat their purchase of the sales promoting brand, then the slight rise above the baseline will materialize.

However, if all of the brand switchers go back to their former brands, then the second sales trend obtains, i.e., the sales trend back to the baseline. Finally, if the switchers all go back and even take with them some of the others who are current users of the sales promoting brand, then the third sales trend will happen, i.e., one that's slightly below the baseline.

The preceding three alternative sales trends define the three alternative sales patterns across the preceding 3 periods, namely, Periods 2, 3 and 4. The ideal pattern is obviously the first one where the Period 4's sales trend shows a slight rise in sales above the brand's sales baseline. In practice, is this ideal sales pattern also the sales promo campaign's typical sales pattern result? The tracking research data in the US of ACNielsen has shown this is not the case.

Next week—why the typical sales promos are becoming less and less profitable.

Feedback at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

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The Board of Directors with Chairman, Atty. Sabino R. Padilla Jr., Vice-Chairman Daniel Y. Chiong and other members: Washington Z. Sycip, Chung Tiong Tay, Vicente T. Paterno, Reynaldo T. Cometa, Simeon M. Valdez, Elizabeth C. Chow and Alice C. Gohoc brings Stateland, Inc. to its third decade alongside the sense of dynamism calibrated through the management team headed by its President - Reynaldo T. Cometa, Executive Vice President - Elizabeth C. Chow, Senior Vice President for Operations and Corporate Secretary - Bienvenido S. Uy, First Vice President for Treasury - Mary C. Maquilan, Vice President for Planning - Alfonso S. Naanep, Vice President for Marketing - Delie U. Chua, and Division Head for Production - Engr. Norman V. Marcelino. Indeed, with this force, the leadership stands unified with an unyielding commitment to the values and spirit that the company upholds.

WORKFORCE

Everyone working with Stateland is empowered and driven to maintain the highest standards of quality in house construction, processes and customer relationships. The workforce adopts dynamic standards that undergo constant review and self-assessment that enable itself to raise such standards even higher.

Stateland's well-trained architects, engineers and marketers perform meticulous observation, in-depth analysis, and evaluation of its individual task for continuous improvement. Project studies undergo constant scrutiny to uphold the interest of customers who have rising expectations thus, ensuring homebuyer satisfaction and continuing patronage.

MARKET

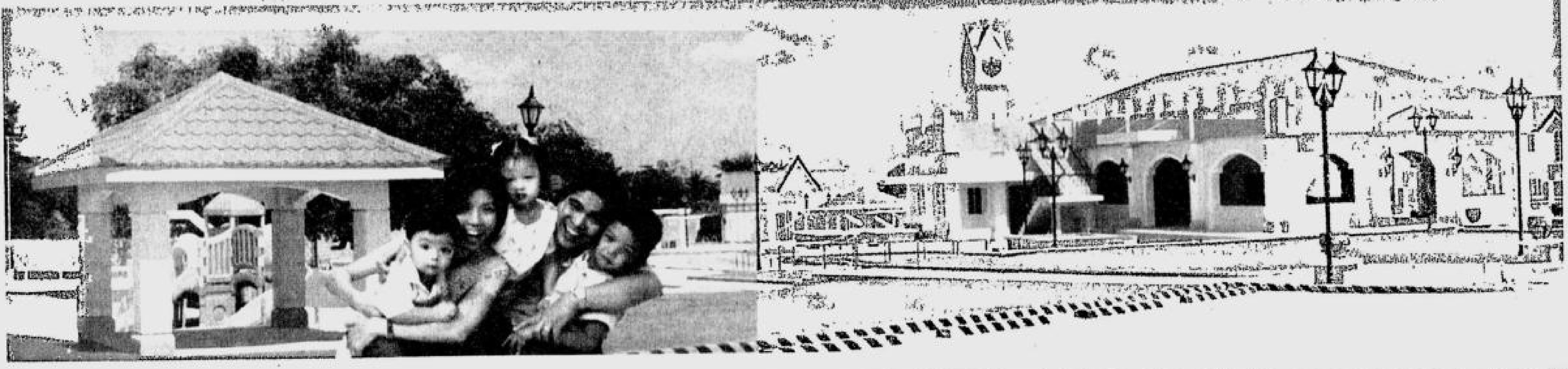
Stateland positioned itself for sustainable growth in a well-defined market of middle to upper-middle class, guided by a mission to provide exceptionally quality housing projects to the Filipino people that will be cherished through generations.

STATELAND PROJECTS

For all its projects, Stateland identifies homebuyer requirements such as security and safety, affordable financial schemes, proximity to trade centers, schools and sanitary environment as some of the important considerations that are integrated in the project conceptualization and development.

Recently developed projects of the Company aim to satisfy homebuyers' investment needs which are: Gran Seville in Cabuyao, Laguna, Chester Place in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Crystal Place in Imus, Cavite, North Olympus Prime in Novaliches, Quezon City and Royal Plaza II in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Stateland's 30th year of contribution to the uplifting of the standard of living of its countrymen through community development has truly been knotted with commitment to continuous improvement of its people, and services- an assurance of keeping its mission and vision of Linking Filipinos through Generations.



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In celebration of its years of accomplishments, Stateland came up with an exciting Family Day-Fun Day event that would capture the interest of Filipino Families who has been the essence of Stateland's concept of friendly and comfortable communities.

On June 30-July 02, Stateland wishes to invite brokers, agents, and prospective buyers for the Grand Viewing of Gran Seville in Cabuyao, Laguna as well as festive activities like Bandfest, Draw-me-a-Home Painting Contest, Mini-Concert and Shop and Eat/Tiangge with participating stores like: Jollibee, Coca-cola, Enchanted Kingdom, Globe, Business World, Smart, Toyota, Pizza Pedrico's, Philippine Christian Bookstore and many more, for the entertainment of its guests and clients.

In addition to that, raffle prizes will be given all throughout the program. The company will also have special prizes for prospective clients who will inquire and reserve during the celebration.

For more details, you may reach Stateland, Inc. at telephone number 00-(632)-2446818, a friendly salesperson will be glad to assist you.

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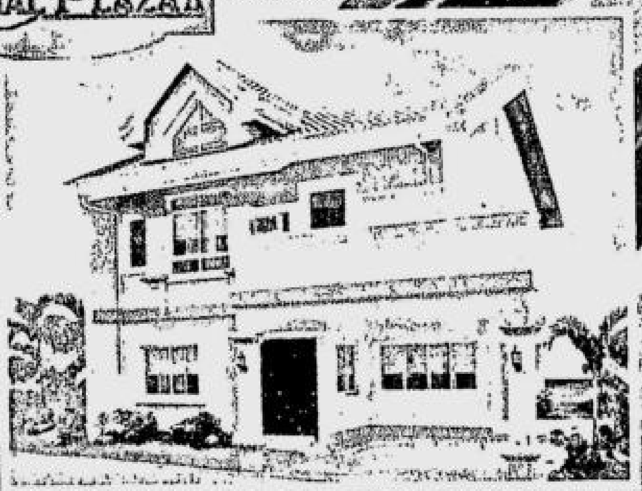

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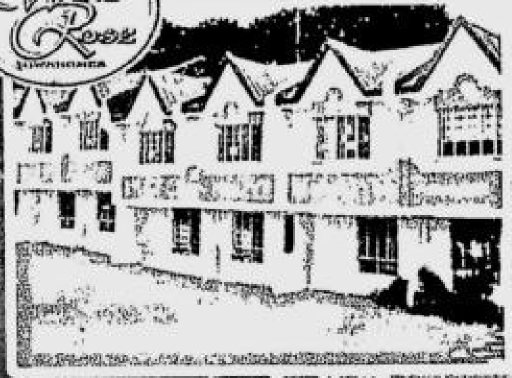
Windrose Townhomes PARAÑAQUE CITY



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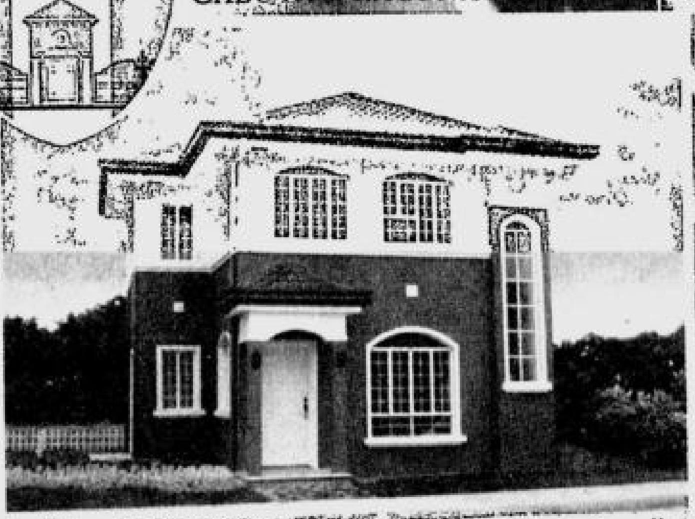
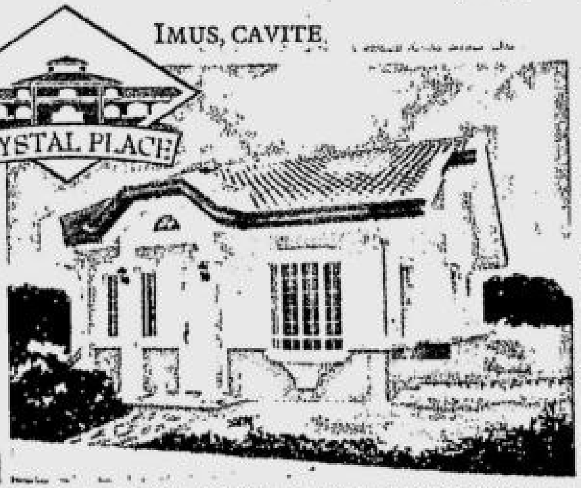


ROYAL SQUARE PASAY CITY

CRYSTAL PLACE IMUS, CAVITE



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S... Ville — CAVITE
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NEW CAVITE INDUSTRIAL CITY — CAVITE
Summercrest — TANZA, CAVITE
Greenfields Heights Farm Subdivisions — CAVITE
Royal Plaza — STA. MESA, MANILA
Royal Garden Townhomes — MANILA
HILLCREST MAKATI — MAKATI CITY
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Royal Circle Townhouses — PARAÑAQUE CITY
DIAMONDCREST VILLAGE — BULACAN
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Value-added selling urged

TEAM JAPAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF Tourism (DOT) is advocating "value-added marketing" to enable the local tourism industry to adapt to an emerging trend that makes travel more and more based on activity and interest rather than destination.

Speaking in behalf of Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano at the "Intourpreneur" Congress in Cebu recently, Team Japan head Rosvi C. Gaetos said: "The highly informative Cebu brochure of the DOT lists down heritage, fiestas and festivals, shopping and entertainment, aside from beach resorts, as the attractions of Cebu."

Gaetos cited this multi-dimensional promotional presentation of Cebu as an example of value-added marketing, highlighting the many unique activities that Japanese tourists could do on the island and the rest of the archipelago.

"More and more travelers are moving toward deciding what activities they want to do first, and then choose the destination that offers them. The 'push' (personal motivation) factor is getting stronger than the 'pull' (destination) factor," Gaetos explained.

"It is very important that as early as when the Japanese start considering Cebu for their next vacation, they must be made aware of what attractions Cebu has to offer to make their decision to choose Cebu much easier," she emphasized. "Cebu needs to layer on additional offerings, products and destinations in its packages."

Franchising stirs rise of SMEs

FRANCHISING IS FAST EVOLVING into a means for the country's small and medium enterprises, or SMEs, to get into high level of operating efficiencies and become globally competitive.

This was noted by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) in pointing out the expansion of many of the country's homegrown franchises into other parts of the world.

PFA chairman emeritus Samie Lim said franchising had enabled, not only SMEs, but also entrepreneurs to adopt modern management and operating systems through tested business formats with established brand names, goodwill, and customer acceptance.

"The unfamiliarity of many SMEs or their inability to cope with the high-productivity requirements of modern business is somehow being addressed by franchising, whose enterprises are well equipped with technology and best practices," Lim said.

Business brands and opportunities will be showcased at the Franchise Expo 2006 to enable any SME or entrepreneur to pick the kind of franchise of his interest and capacity to capitalize and operate, according to PFA president Robert Trota of Max's Franchising Inc.

Slated at the World Trade Center on July 14 to 16, Franchise Expo 2006 will provide participants with international and local networking, onsite marketing and sales, extensive promotions, and thousands of prospective clients who have decided to invest in a franchised business. Last year, the Franchise Expo generated more than P200 million worth of businesses and almost 20,000 visitors.

For inquiries, call 8558342 to 45; fax 8558346; or email mktg@worldexco.com), or the PFA Secretariat (Tel. 6870365 to 67, or email@nwave.net).

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Philippine Retirement Industry

My warmest congratulations to the Philippine Retirement Inc. and Philippine Retirement Authority as you launch a globally competitive Philippine Retirement Industry.

Your summit for the retirement industry indicates that the country is on the right track in creating a world-class industry. This will make the Philippines the preferred retirement haven in Asia.

Your work has inspired us all and shows that the Private sector and the Government can truly work together to ensure that our economy will move forward for a better future. As we prepare the country for the migration of retirees from around the globe, may the PRI and PRA continue to remain true to the Government's commitment and vision to attain a better life for our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My call to Action

I congratulate the PRI on bringing 3 months of effort, on the part of so very many people, to such a "momentous beginning".

The enormous dedication, which the private sector has mobilized, will surely spur us on, in our launching of the second stage of our strategic integrated initiative. And truly integrated it is, as we move from promoting visas to promoting a globally competitive retirement industry. I cannot recall an instance when so many industries in the private sector have banded together to secure the strong, and committed support of Government.

We, at the PRA, have sworn our wholehearted commitment to supporting a private-sector-led development of a world-class Philippine Retirement Industry.

But the summit marks "the beginning" of the effort, not its culmination.

Our combined success in fulfilling the industry's goals can only be expressed through the individual successes of many small enterprises and of large corporations, as they deliver the class of care giving service for which we are already famous worldwide.

I therefore urge each and every one of you to take the "work-in-progress" being presented at this summit to chart your own course to success in a new industry for the benefit for all Filipinos

Warmest greetings,

(Sgd.) Edgar B. Aglipay
Retirement Czar
Chairman
Philippine Retirement Authority

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all the various sectors supporting the Retirement Industry. The Philippine Retirement Incorporated (PRI), indeed, will play a vital role in the attainment of the overall objective of making the Philippines a retirement haven.

The First Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit will be the springboard of synergy and cooperation between the government and the private sector in identifying thrusts and strategies to ensure a vibrant, productive, and successful Retirement Program.

Congratulations, and I look forward to a fruitful event.

Mabuhay to all participants of the Summit.

(Sgd.) Willie J. Uy
Chairman, PRI

When the private sector moves, the whole country moves. When this is supported by government, the potential for success is even greater.

The national retirement program is now being formulated by the private sector in tandem with government. For the past 3 months, day and night, the private sector has been systematically mobilizing all retirement-related groups including, but limited to, housing, healthcare and lifestyle services. They have been contributing creative ideas and innovative recommendations to form a strategic retirement industry plan.

To demonstrate its deep and long-term commitment, the private sector has organized formally into the Philippine Retirement Incorporated (PRI). PRI will work in close collaboration with Retirement Czar and Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) Chair Edgardo Aglipay and other relevant agencies. We are glad that the retirement industry has been declared a key presidential flagship project which should get full government support

The road is long and challenging, because this requires the mobilization of all our society's sectors. In line with this, the PRI and the PRA will lead a one-day summit this Monday, July 3 to further consolidate the strategic plans for this program.

This targets a cumulative new foreign retiree population of 900,000 in the next 10 years. This is very doable, considering this is only 1/10 of 1% (or 1 in 1,000) of the potential market. The result will be 4 million new jobs, $44 billion in earned foreign exchange, multiplier effects, and even reverse migration. This, indeed, will be another leg to stand on as we move our country forward.

Let us support this private-public sector collaboration. Its success is dependent on all of us. Here is an opportunity where the little each contributes of can, if we act collectively, make a big difference for our country.

A drop of water, when put together, makes an ocean. A grain of sand, when combined, makes a seashore. Let us join forces to make our oceans, our seashores, and the rest of our nation synergize together to make the Philippines the premier retirement destination of the world.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Ernesto M. Ordonez
President, PRI

We revitalized the housing industry. It was a private sector initiative with very strong support from government. This time we are doing a similar thing. But this time we are launching a whole new industry.

And this time we are doing it with a much broader team comprising the development, banking, health care, insurance, transportation, tourism, and education sectors, with strong support from government led by Gen. Edgardo Aglipay.

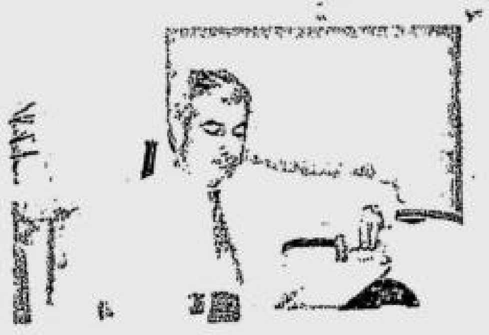
This summit launches the Philippine Retirement Industry roadmap. But the real task lies ahead. For us to be able to reach our goals, both short term and long term, the combined support from all of these diverse private sectors and government will be critical.

Work with us and let the success of the industry be the source of your success.

(Sgd.) NOEL S. GONZALES
Over-all Summit Chairperson
Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit

THE PRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From left: PRI Vice Chair Francisco Colayco, President Ernesto Ordoñez and Chairman Willie Uy



Board Advisor, Fernando Zobel de Ayala

1st Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit

Organized by Philippine Retirement Incorporated (PRI)
with the strong support of the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA)

Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City
July 3, 2006

8:00 - 9:00 Registration
9:00 - 9:10 Opening Ceremonies (Prayer and National Anthem)

9:10 - 9:25	Welcome and Summit Overview	Mr Noel S. Gonzales Summit Chair
9:25 - 9.55	Institutional Perspective? Government Sector? Private Sector	Gen Edgar B. Aglipay, PNP (Ret)Chair, PRA Dr Ernesto M. Ordoñez President, PRI
9:55 - 10.10	EO372: Task Force on Globally Competitive Philippine Service Industries	Former Sec. Rizalino Navarro and Amb. Cesar Bautista
10:10 - 10:30	The Tsunami of Retirees	Mr David R. Paraiso Chairman, Healthcare Coalition, Institute
10:30 - 10:45	A Retirement Destination Example	Congressman Simeon Kintanar
10:45 - 10:55	BREAK	
10:55 - 11:15	Philippine CompetitiveAdvantage in theGlobal Arena	Dr Bernardo VillegasUA&P
11:15 -11:45	"Branding" 3 Fresh approaches	
11:45- 12:05	Marketing - What Are We Selling?And Who is Buying?	Ms. Zenaida M. Marquez President, Empire East Properties Development Corporation
12:05 - 1:00	LUNCH	
1:00 - 1:15	Signing of MOAs & PRA Dividend Contribution	PRA and Relevant Government Agencies
1:15 - 1:45	Guest of Honor	Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
1:45 - 2:05	Health Care(incl. Insurance and Transportation)Delivering World Class Care at an Affordable Price	Dr Teresa Elizabeth. P. Asa Head, Allied Medical Services Manila Doctors Hospital
2:05 - 2:25	Housing (incl. Finance and Security) Integrated and Linked Facilities	Mr Willie J. UyChair, PRI
2:25 - 2:45	Human Resources Development(incl. Lifestyle Services)Training and Managing Cultural Differences	Mr Francisco J. ColaycoChair, Lifeline Arrows
2:45 - 2:55	Overview of Workshops Have your Say !We need your creativity	Hans Bohlmann
2:55 - 3:05	BREAK	
3:05 - 5:00	Workshops Simultaneous Group Sessions	
5:00 -.5:50	Plenary (Reports from Workshops) Summarizing to let you know we heard you!	
5:50 - 6:00	Closing Ceremonies	

To Attend, Please Call Ms Ethel Rupa
Phone: 848 1412 Email: ethel.rupa@pra.gov.ph
Tickets: PhP 3,000.00

The Philippines as a world-class retirement destination

'First, we are friendly to foreigners. We are a caring country. We have top caliber talents who will service the retirement industry'

By Raquel P. Gomez

'There are more old people versus the young people in the developed countries. The old people have money and are living longer. The old people in the developed countries have no choice but to leave their countries. They're the new product for an emerging market. If they're bound to come, we might as well get them'

THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY, WHICH is currently experiencing a boom, aims to make a cut in the big foreign retirement market by positioning the country as a retirement destination of choice in Asia, an area in the global map targeted by foreigners in the developed countries for their second home.

This objective was bolstered by the linking of the two organizations involved in the establishment of a complete and high-standard retirement industry in the country. The Philippine Retirement Authority and the Philippine Retirement Inc joined forces under the leadership of Gen. Edgar Aglipay who is head of the PRA and was currently bestowed the title "czar of the retirement industry" by Malacañang.

To generate more interest and focus on the emerging retirement industry, the PRA, which is the government's leading corporation promoting the Philippines as a retirement haven, and the Philippine Retirement Inc, the conglomeration of various sectors in the industry, are organizing the first Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit on July 3 at the Makati Shangri-La.

At the summit, the country's leading real estate developers and other sectors linked to the retirement business such as healthcare, lifestyle and recreation providers will meet to formulate a blueprint and strategies for the business plan of the private sector and the government that intends to better equip the Philippines in addressing the needs of the retirement market.

Aglipay says the retirement industry, if fully developed, could generate US$18 billion to $56 billion annually, aside from creating at least 4 million jobs, and reverse the trend of Filipino health workers migrating abroad.

Noel Gonzales, the summit's overall chairperson and chairman and CEO of Corporate Holdings Group of Companies, said the real estate sector, which he represents, welcomes the move of the government to tap the expertise of the private sector in developing the retirement market in the country.

"The reason why we were not able to sell the country as a retirement destination before was because we did not have a product to sell. The PRA then was just selling visas and no facilities. But now we have an industry. We now have retirement villages, condominiums, and world-class subdivisions by top developers of the country to sell to the foreign retirees. Together with the PRA, we will go out and promote the country and the industry."

Willie Uy, national president of Subdivisions and Housing Developers Association Inc, said the retirement industry will initially target just one percent of the population of retirees abroad. He said the country should be ready to accommodate the retirees from developed countries because they are looking for new homes as their countries of origin will no longer be able to support the aging population.

"Malaysia and Thailand brought in about 20,000 retirees last year. We only have 10 percent of that number. There's so much to gain from the global market. There are many ways of encouraging investments to this country, but this one is crystal clear. We just have to work together," he said.

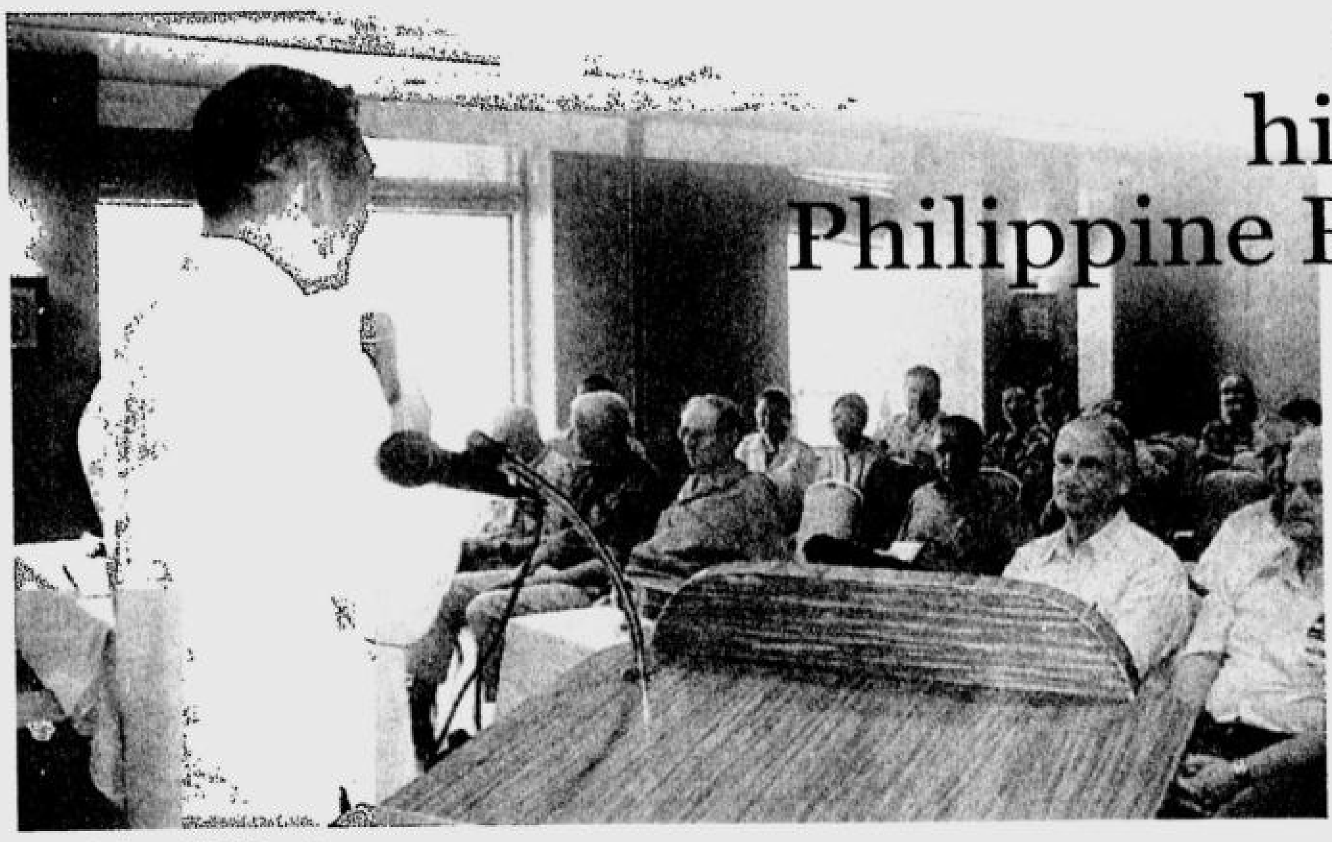
PRI president Ernesto Ordoñez said the full development of the retirement industry is a flagship project of the government that will have a major impact to the country's economy as it will be a major source of jobs.

"There are more old people versus the young people in the developed countries. The old people have money and are living longer. The old people in the developed countries have no choice but to leave their countries. They're the new product for an emerging market. If they're bound to come, we might as well get them."

Gonzales, who is upbeat about the summit, said the country has a great chance of attracting foreign retirees because of the ingredients to a good retirement haven that have already been in place.

"First, we are friendly to foreigners. We are a caring country. We have top caliber talents who will service the retirement industry. Our doctors, nurses, and caregivers are the preferred service providers all over the world. And of course, we have the warm climate and the natural attractions."

Gen. Aglipay shares his aspirations for the Philippine Retirement Industry


Gen. Aglipay with PRA retirees

Gen. Edgar B. Aglipay heads the Philippine Retirement Authority, having served as Chief of the Philippine National Police. Last May 30, he was appointed by PGMA as the Retirement Czar to enable him to fast track the establishment of the Philippine Retirement Industry.

(We have spent much time with the retired General these past 3 months and have tried to capture his aspirations for the industry in this lively, editorialized composite interview.)

Q: From your first few months in the position, how suited is the Philippines to take advantage of the global retirement crisis?

EBA: The Philippines is a natural retiree haven. We have the most hospitable care givers in the world. Our cost of living is very affordable. We have world class medical practitioners, not to mention our great tropical climate.

Making retirement an industry in our country makes good business sense. It attracts foreign investment, generates jobs and has the potential to reverse the migration of our doctors and nurses.

Q: What are PRA's major activities in 2006?

EBA: We've already inspired the largest real estate companies to offer integrated retirement packages for foreign retirees. We're also having success in getting smaller developers to band together to create affordable housing. We've also received support from other government agencies in providing support and lowering the costs for the retirees and we're currently working with diplomats from target countries to get a sense of their retirees' requirements and expectations.

Q: In your opinion, what's the biggest accomplishment to date?

EBA: My biggest accomplishment would be getting the support of the private sector. Inspiring different industries from housing, healthcare, wellness, insurance and others to work together and be part of the Philippine Retirement Industry. This conglomeration was formed last April and is now registered as the Philippine Retirement, Inc.

Q: So what is the role of the PRI?

EBA: Among its important roles, the PRI will ensure that all developments will comply with international or appropriate standards. This is the only way we can say that we truly have a world-class industry. No retirement related development will be accredited by the PRA without the Gold Seal of Approval from the PRI.

Q: Why would an American or a Japanese want to leave his family to retire in the Philippines?

EBA: The world is facing a crisis the likes of which it has never seen before, in all of human history. The world, especially the developed countries, is facing an aging crisis. Social and Pension Services in affected countries will not be able to effectively support the burgeoning number of retirees. Their governments may well go bankrupt if they continue with the present level of support they're giving to their retirees. For the retirees, on the other hand, the pensions they're receiving are not enough to sustain them at the high cost of living in their respective countries. Thus, their dilemma. One way of addressing this dilemma is for the retirees to relocate to another country with a much lower cost of living and spend their retirement years there. And this is where the Philippines can come in.

Q: What are we doing to take advantage of this situation?

EBA: For the past 3 months, the PRA in cooperation with the movers and shakers in the housing, healthcare, insurance, and other related industries had been working unceasingly to come up with a road map in establishing a Philippine Retirement Industry to address the needs of the expected tsunami of retirees in the next few years. Ultimately, to benefit our country in terms of foreign exchange remittances and jobs creation.

Q: Lately, we've been hearing a lot about this "Tsunami of Retirees". Could you tell us more about this?

EBA: As previously mentioned, the world is aging. To illustrate, for Japan, Korea, Taiwan, the US, China and selected countries in Europe, their projected retiree population, aged 45+ will number 912,500,000 by 2015. From this number, a low of 10% (91,250,000) to a high of 60% (547,500,000) will be thinking of relocating to a different country because the pensions they will be receiving from their governments will not be sufficient to support them in their home countries. This is the Tsunami we're talking about.

Q: How will this "Tsunami" benefit the country?

EBA: With the sheer number of retirees expected to relocate, if we're successful in enticing as little as 1% (912,300,000) of them to come here in 10 years, we're looking at upwards of $44 billion in foreign exchange remittances to the Philippines. The industry is also projected to generate more than 4 million jobs in the same period of time. Jobs for the health and wellness industry will be in great supply that we're hoping to get our OFW's to come back and work here where they will be nearer to their families, thus reversing the outward migration of our kababayans.

Q: Is the Philippines suited for this kind of undertaking?

EBA: The Philippines is a natural retiree haven. Our race is world renowned for our hospitality and care giving. The cost of living here is one of the lowest in Asia. We have world-class medical practitioners offering topnotch services at third-world prices. And our tropical climate offers a very nice alternative to the cold winter seasons in Japan, the US and Europe.

Q: What are some of the recent developments in the Retirement Industry?

EBA: Through the combined effort of PRI and PRA, PGMA declared the Philippine Retirement Industry as a key flagship project. Also, the PRA's PhP150 Million marketing and office relocation budget will be redirected for the marketing of the Industry to be spearheaded by the PRI. And on July 3, 2006 we'll be having the Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Q: What is the objective of the Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit?

EBA: The Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit will establish, and contribute to, the "Industry Roadmap" which will guide the Philippine Retirement Industry towards becoming an effective / efficient / "World-class Industry" with a reputation second to none, as quickly as possible.

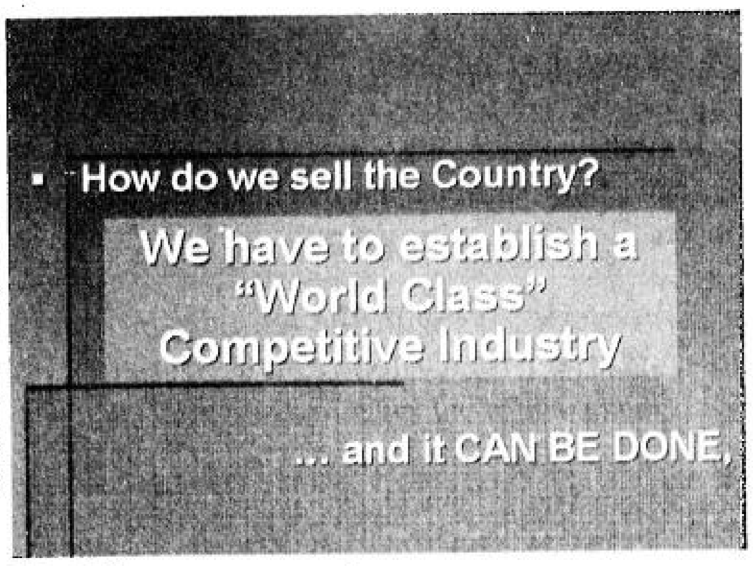
Q: How can one participate in this new industry?

EBA: One can be a provider in any one of the following sectors; housing, health, and lifestyle services as well as marketing, finance, human resources and training. The opportunities in this industry are limitless and are not confined to the big players only. Our ultimate goal is to involve entrepreneurs of micro, small and medium scale enterprises in the profits to be made in this industry.

Q: Any parting words to our readers?

EBA: I am inviting you to attend the First Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit on Monday, July 3, 2006 at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. See you all there.

'A sneak preview to a historic start...'



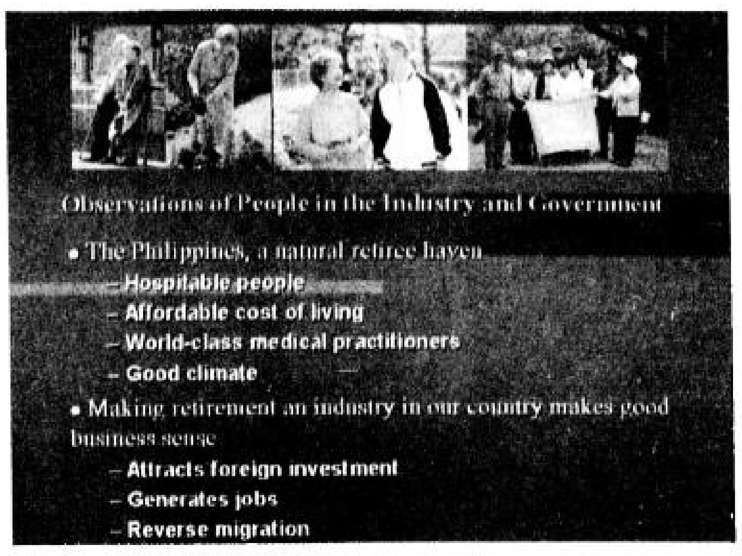
- How do we sell the Country?

We have to establish a "World Class" Competitive Industry

... and it CAN BE DONE.

"Never doubt that a **small group of committed people** can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

—Margaret Mead

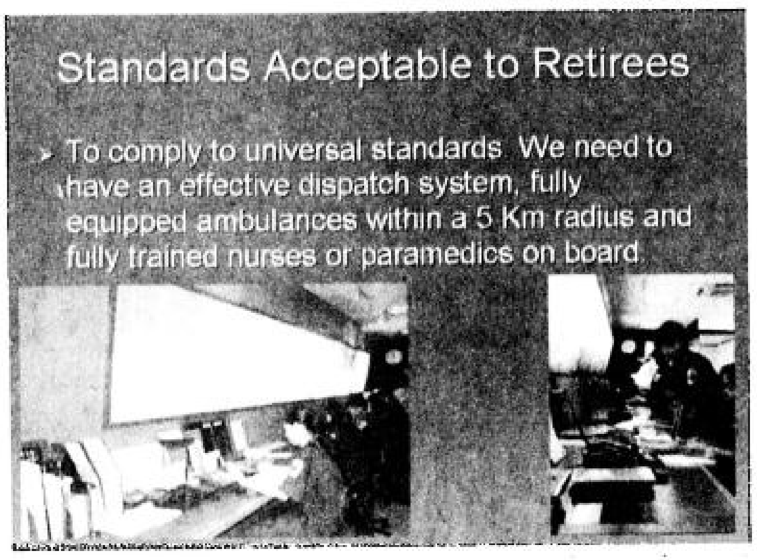


Observations of People in the Industry and Government

- The Philippines, a natural retiree haven
  - Hospitable people
  - Affordable cost of living
  - World-class medical practitioners
  - Good climate
- Making retirement an industry in our country makes good business sense
  - Attracts foreign investment
  - Generates jobs
  - Reverse migration

"We have a 'strategic' plan. It's called doing things."

—Herb Kelleher

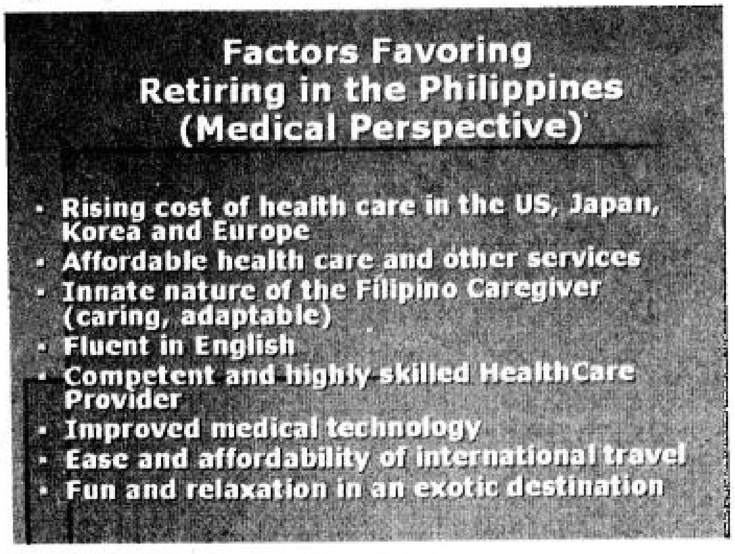


Standards Acceptable to Retirees

- To comply to universal standards We need to have an effective dispatch system, fully equipped ambulances within a 5 Km radius and fully trained nurses or paramedics on board.

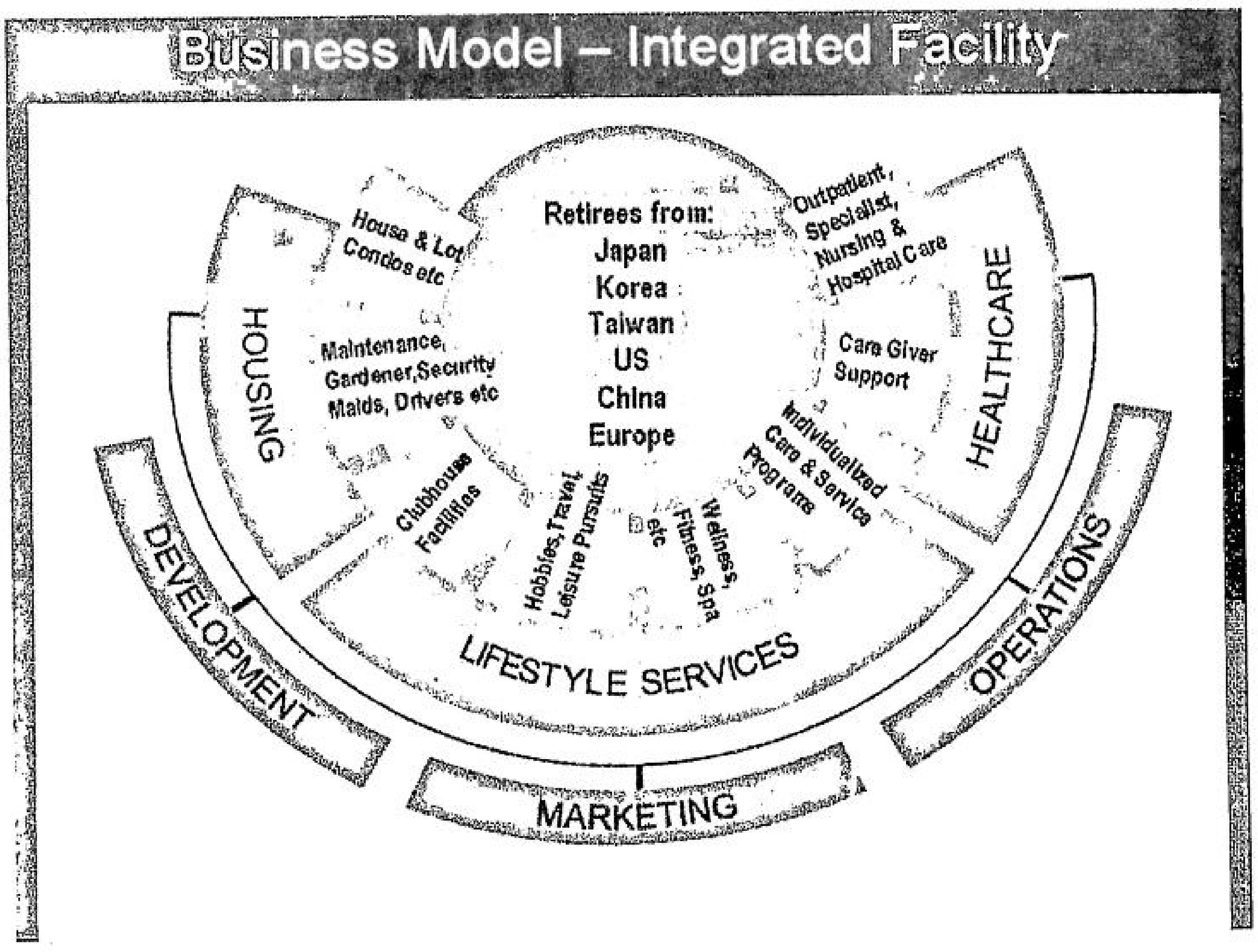
"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

—Mary Oliver



Factors Favoring Retiring in the Philippines (Medical Perspective)

- Rising cost of health care in the US, Japan, Korea and Europe
- Affordable health care and other services
- Innate nature of the Filipino Caregiver (caring, adaptable)
- Fluent in English
- Competent and highly skilled HealthCare Provider
- Improved medical technology
- Ease and affordability of international travel
- Fun and relaxation in an exotic destination



Business Model – Integrated Facility

Retirees from:
Japan
Korea
Taiwan
US
China
Europe

HOUSING
House & Lot Condos etc
Maintenance, Gardener,Security Maids, Drivers etc

HEALTHCARE
Outpatient, Specialist, Nursing & Hospital Care
Care Giver Support
Individualized Care & Service Programs

LIFESTYLE SERVICES
Clubhouse Facilities
Hobbies,Travel, Leisure Pursuits
etc
Wellness, Fitness, Spa

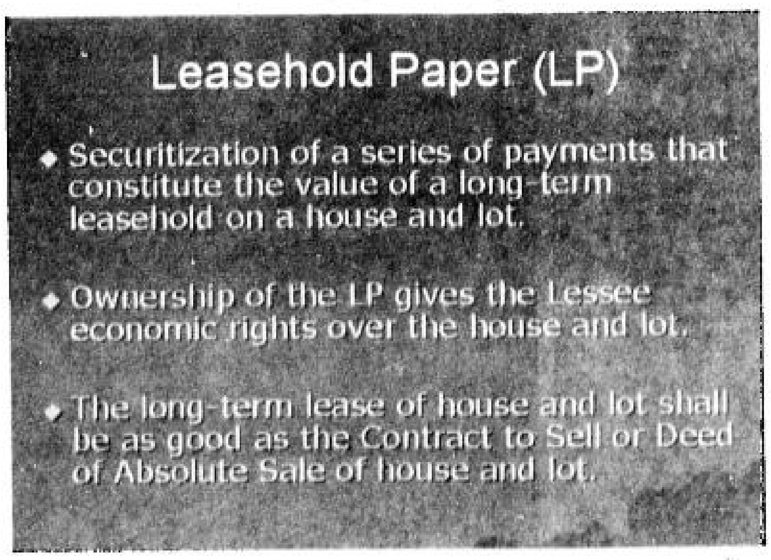
DEVELOPMENT
MARKETING
OPERATIONS

"I think it is very important for you to do two things: act on your temporary conviction as if it was a real conviction; and when you realize that you are wrong, correct course very quickly."

—Andy Grove

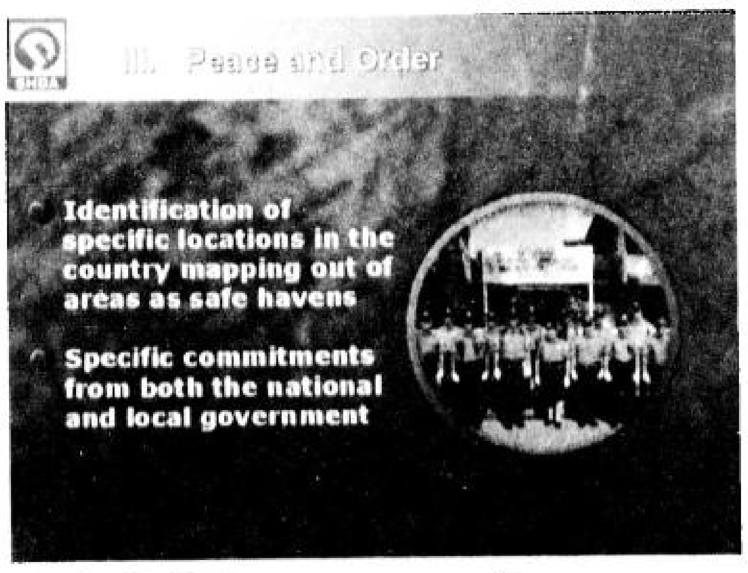
"Getting Things Done" is a systematic process of rigorously discussing hows and whats, tenaciously following through, and ensuring accountability."

—Larry Bossidy & Ram Charan/ Execution:
The Discipline of Getting Things Done



Leasehold Paper (LP)

- Securitization of a series of payments that constitute the value of a long-term leasehold on a house and lot.
- Ownership of the LP gives the Lessee economic rights over the house and lot.
- The long-term lease of house and lot shall be as good as the Contract to Sell or Deed of Absolute Sale of house and lot.



III. Peace and Order

- Identification of specific locations in the country mapping out of areas as safe havens
- Specific commitments from both the national and local government

"... Your ideas at the summit can make it great"

Major township development on fast track Pampanga

To integrate the first world class Retirement Facility in the Philippines

A LAUDABLE RESPONSE TO PGMA'S SCAD PROGRAM

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has given her administration's all out support for the development of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac corridor into a major investment and logistics hub. Through its Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Program, major infrastructure developments have been introduced starting with the rehabilitation of the North Luzon Expressway which commuters are already enjoying.

The success of the SCAD Program is hinged on the completion of the Subic Clark Tarlac Expressway which is expected by 2007. It is 94-kilometer, four-lane road network that will be a direct, efficient and nearly exclusive road connection between the three vital development areas in Central Luzon - Subic, Clark and the Tarlac Industrial Estates.

The Government is projecting that through the SCT Expressway, Central Luzon will replicate the progress experienced by the town of Alabang and the Calabarzon when the South Luzon Expressway was completed. Through the South Luzon Expressway, Alabang has undergone aggressive growth from a farm land to a major satellite city and a fitting gateway to Calabarzon which likewise became highly industrialized - dotted with countless residential subdivisions, major retail establishments and host to a huge number of multinational and local companies.

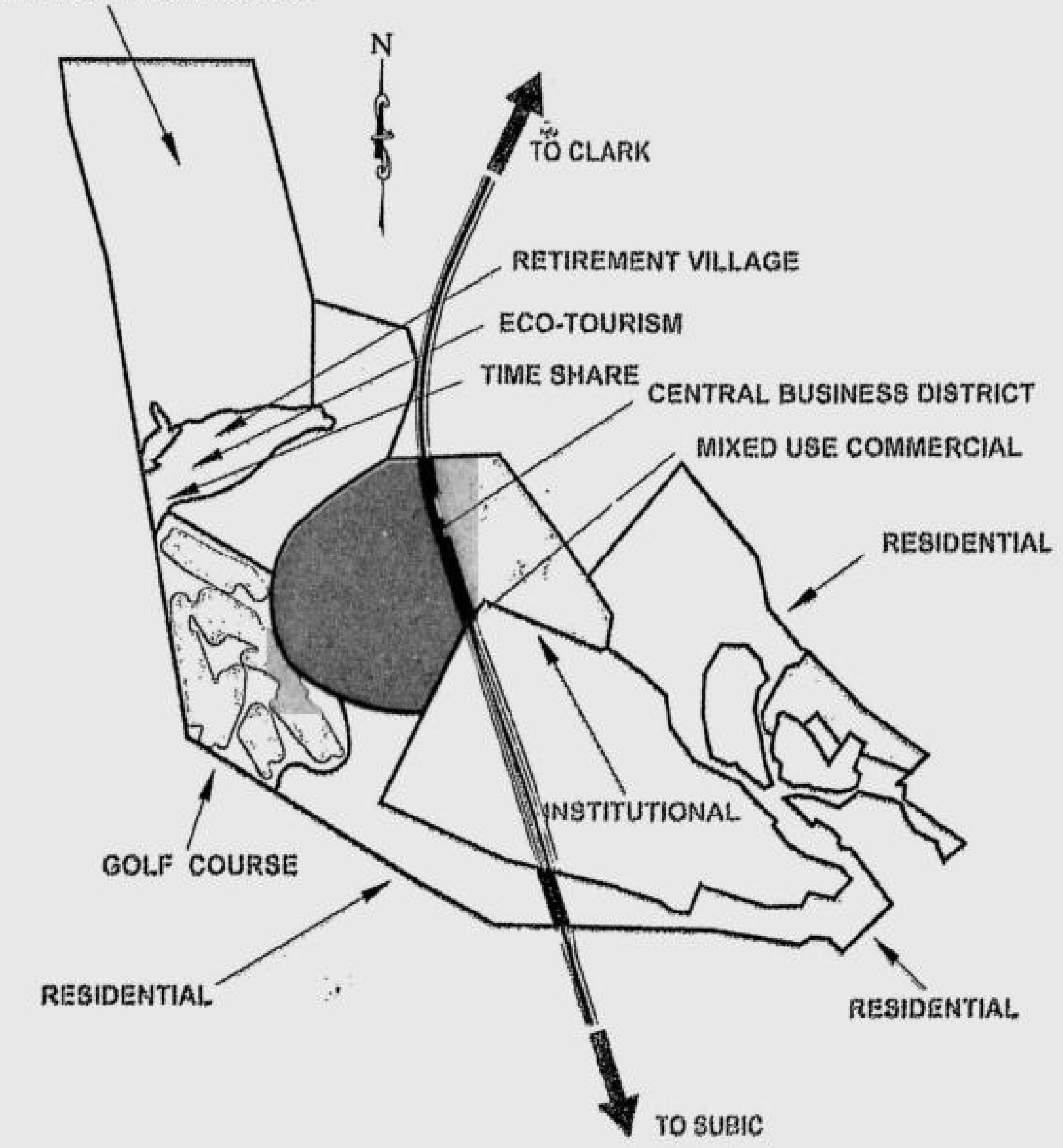
"To duplicate the progress in Alabang and the Calabarzon is exactly what we are envisioning of Porac once the SCT Expressway has been completed" exclaimed Mr. Leonio. "With the SCT expressway, Porac will only be a mere 5 minutes from Clark, 20 minutes to Subic and 30 minutes away from the rest of Central Luzon, just like driving from Alabang to Makati. And since Porac is just located in the first interchange after Clark, we can claim that Porac is practically still an extension of Clark. Our principle is that our development should not compete with Subic or Clark but rather complement these ecozone's development program and be a catalyst for sustainable development not only in Porac but the entire region."

A REPUTABLE PARTNERSHIP

"Mention Porac and lahar immediately comes to mind. But our 800 hectare property is virtually lahar free and is ideally located to develop a whole new township" was the response of Mr. Leonardo Leonio while overlooking the site with a major developer.

The development of à new town in Porac is a brainchild of Mr. Leonardo L. Leonio and Mr. Noel S. Gonzales, both highly-respected in their fields. Mr. Leonio is head of the Petrolift Group of Companies which has been engaged in the shipping industry for more than two decades. Its esteemed clientele includes the oil industry's "Big 3" - Shell, Petron and Caltex. Mr. Leonio also chairs LLL Holdings, Inc. and FL Properties and Management, Corp. which owns the 800-hectare property in Porac.

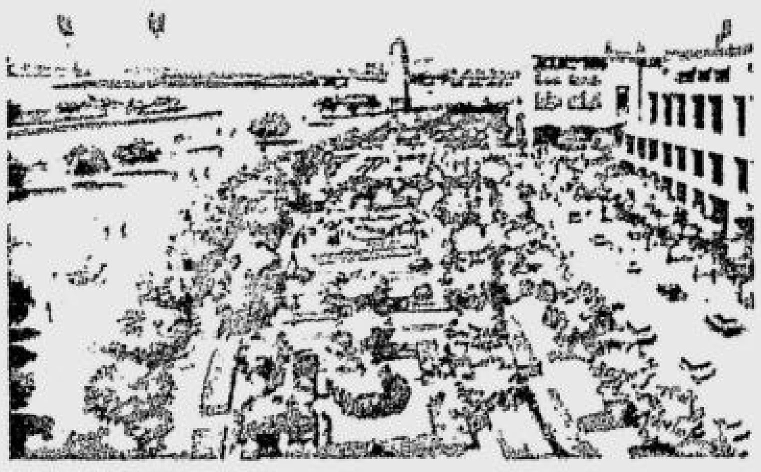
Mr. Noel Gonzales is chairman of Corporate Holdings Management Group and Chairman of the Philippine Retirement Industry Summit. He is a recognized leader in the real estate industry being a former president of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA), the largest organization of property developers in the country. He also served as a consultant to one of the largest property developers in the country. He actively participates in the formulation of housing programs and policies and is a prime mover in the introduction of reforms to the housing industry which led the steady climb of the property sector. As a developer, he has built more than 10,000 high quality and affordable homes.

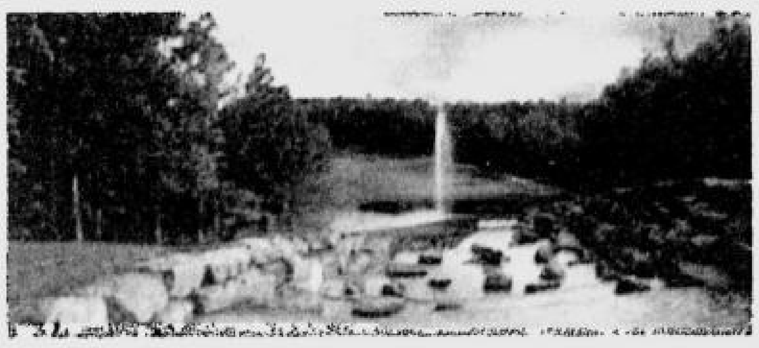


The birth of a new township

With an 800 hectare property in Porac, these two great minds envisioned an ideal town - a carefully master planned development which shall integrate gated communities geared toward all income classes, world class leisure and recreational facilities, retail and office establishments and prestigious medical and educational institutions. It is also envisioned to become a haven for foreign retirees. It shall have all the amenities and features needed for a sustainable community. As more aptly described by Mr. Gonzales "This Township will be THE ADDRESS in the region."

The property is in an incomparable location being strategically situated in close proximity to the Porac Interchange, the first major interchange of the SCT Expressway coming from Clark to Subic.





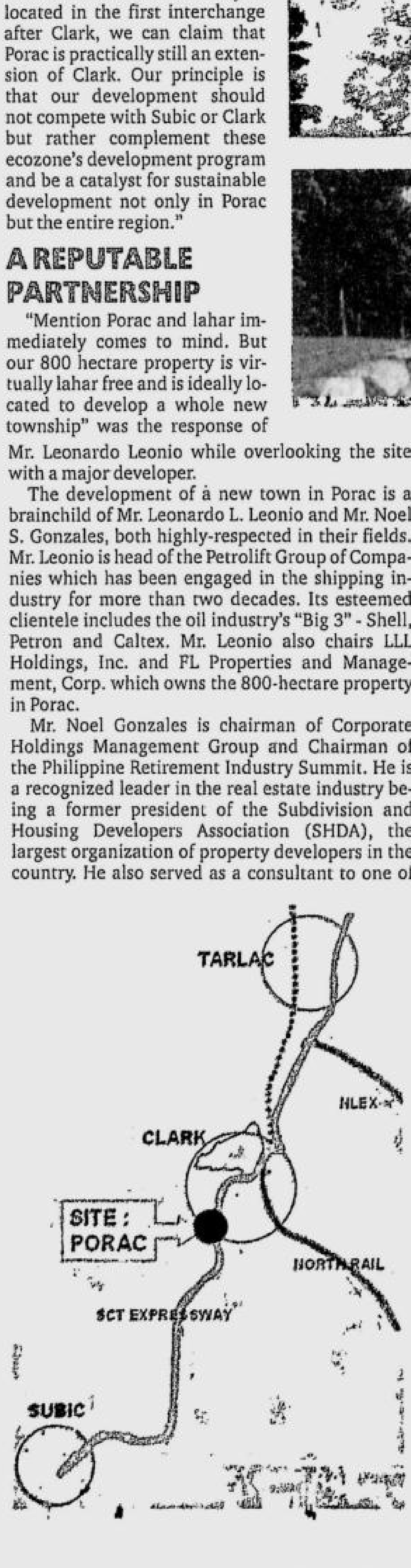
"Ours will be a development unparalleled in the area" claims Mr. Leonio. He adds that the property offers a majestic view overlooking Pampanga. Its highest point is measured at 400 mean above sea level with the site section revealing a very undulating profile and gently rolling terrain. In addition, the property has an agreeable climate comparable to Tagaytay, which is 5 degrees cooler than that of municipalities located in the plains.

"Businessmen and their employees working in Clark and Subic as well as other nearby areas will find our development the ideal place not only for their residences but also for their offices and leisure activities'" adds Mr. Gonzales.

A brilliant development strategy

To fast track the development of the township, each of the components of the Township will be simultaneously developed. And, since the project is carefully master planned, each enclave shall have its own market and will not compete with the other components of the Township. Thus, several real estate companies can participate in the development.

According to Mr. Gonzales, "The proposed township development aims to contribute to the transformation of the Porac landscape from an agricultural town into a booming metropolis. This is in line with the thrust of their newly approved Comprehensive Land Use Plan."



ADDRESS OF CHOICE IN THE NORTH

Residential enclaves for every market niche

Although world class in quality, the residential development shall not be exclusive to High end market only. The master plan was carefully done to include other markets by introducing several enclaves for a specific market niche - high, mid and low-income segments. The integration of developments with different price ranges into the plan will best serve to appeal to a collection of market niches, ranging from income-constrained first-buyers, from move-up buyers who may want to display their status, to speculative investors with markedly different needs.

High-end enclave

The Project's flagship development would be an exclusive upscale subdivision with support clubhouse and other first class amenities. This component would offer future residents the highest standards of living. The residential lots will be marketed to the more affluent sector, the "elite" of Pampanga and its surrounding provinces, which is not presently being catered to.

The high-end residential communities shall be situated at the hillsides overlooking the whole of Pampanga. This district is situated in a prime area taking advantage of the morning sun and the magnificent views of the development and beyond.

Middle income enclave

Situated at the second highest slopes of the property, these development will cater to house and lot packages that ranges from 1 to 4 million. The enclave would target start-up families, middle managers employed in the economic zones - both Clark and Subic, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and residents of the surrounding towns.

To be consistent with the standard of quality that will be offered by the high-end component, each of these residential enclaves will be gated with generous open spaces, manicured landscaping and quality recreational amenities like pocket parks and playgrounds, swimming pools, basketball courts, clubhouse and the like.

Low-end enclave

This component will likewise be gated and will have its own set of recreational amenities. The development can target the more than 80,000 people employed within the Clark and Subic ecozones.

Currently, public transportation is already available with the completion of the Angeles-Porac road.

Retail, entertainment center - commercial

The development will include a retail and entertainment center. This will be designed as a sprawling center with wide open areas, landscaping, ample parking spaces and a piazza or a courtyard which can serve as a central gathering place where patrons and the villagers can congregate to enjoy the passing scene and prolong their stay.

The center can become the region's entertainment hub and can become a major tourism attraction.

Educational center

The township has ample space allocated for prestigious educational institutions that will cater to all levels - from pre-school to university. It will provide residents of the Township and the entire region easy access to quality education.

Medical center

A world-class medical facility which will combine advanced medical technology with the expertise of Filipino medical workers is planned to be an integral part of the development. This is envisioned to be a medical tourism hub that will not only serve the region but the Asia Pacific Region as well due to its proximity to DMIA.

Business center

The mix also includes the development of a business or office park. Currently, the region has no established business district, thus, the township is also planned to become the region's business district - an ideal location for financial institutions, distribution companies, call centers, and other light industries.

Leisure

A championship 18 or 36 hole golf course will serve as centerpiece for the leisure component of the project. Timesharing options for an exclusive Country club will be offered to interested parties. Also, its proximity to Mt. Pinatubo which is fast becoming recognized as a tourist destination offers opportunities for spas and other wellness centers.

A SANCTUARY FOR RETIREES

"We are ready to go" according to Mr. Leonio. Our plan is to allocate about 10 to 20 hectares exclusive for a retirement village, but the whole township can be considered as a retirement haven. Our project is in full support of PGMA program of development in central Luzon and recognizing the effort of Gen. Aglipay to promote the country as a retirement haven.

"The township shall be the premier integrated retirement village in the North" declares Mr. Gonzales. Based on our study he adds, the project has all the components a retiree will be looking for: availability of excellent transportation system by air (Diosdado Macapagal International Airport) and land (SCT Expressway), it has a scenic natural landscape, proximity to numerous natural attractions, and the relatively low cost of living". Plus the retirement village is part of the Township project which allows easy access to a Golf course, a first rate medical institution and a top notch school.

> Each enclave shall have its own market and will not compete with the other components of the Township. Thus, several real estate companies can participate in the development

Mabuhay to all the delegates to the
1st Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit
on July 3, 2006 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. We support the
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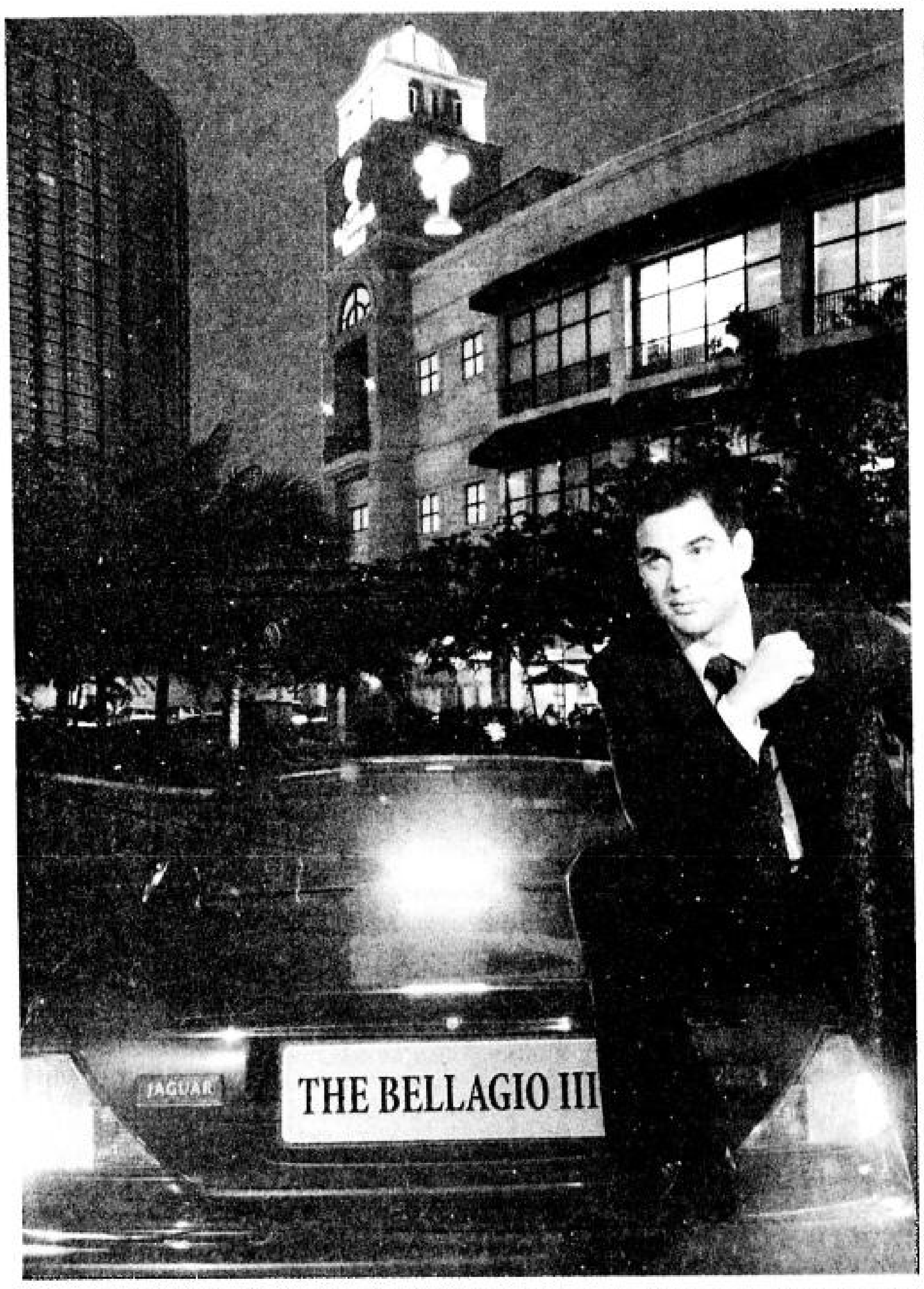
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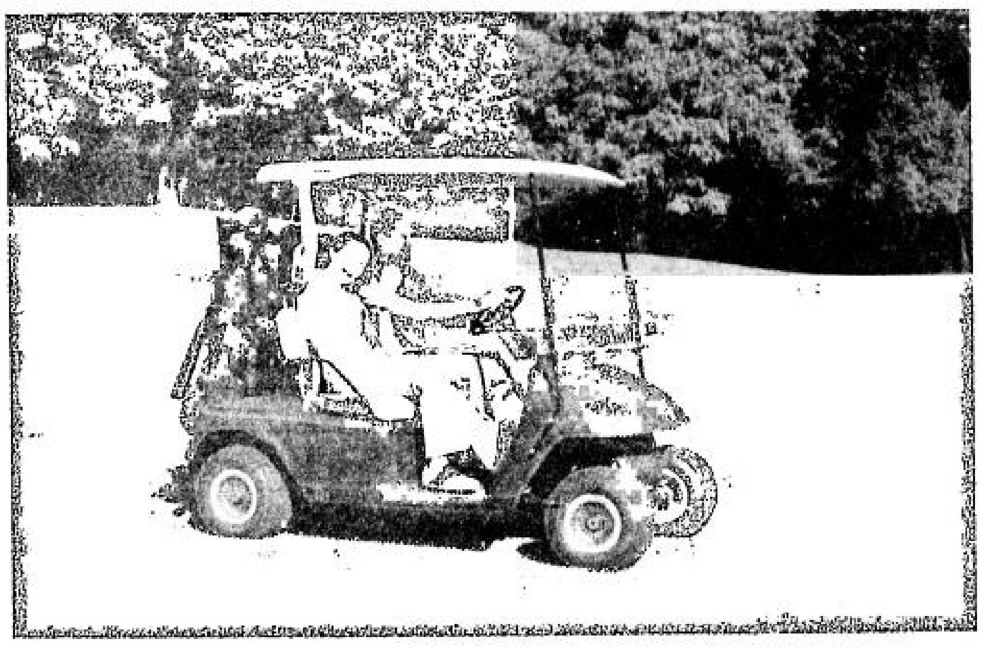

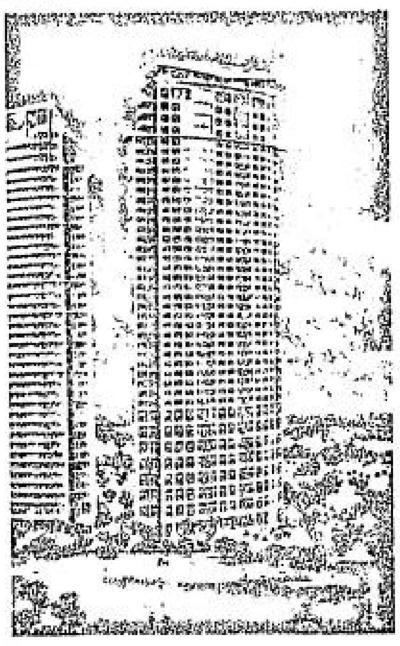

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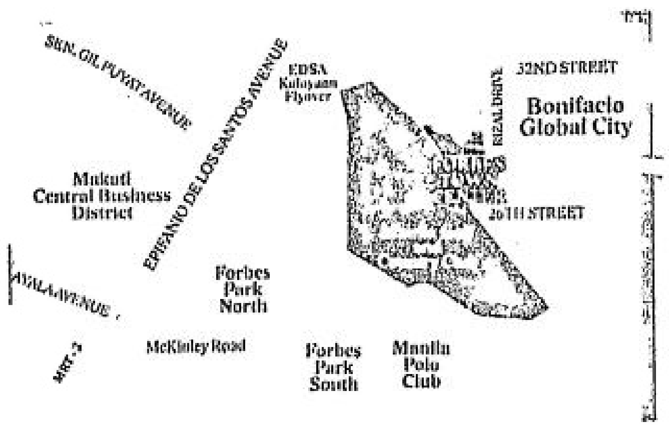
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THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

Precious curves

Bulgari's new Parentesi collection was inspired by the curved lines, known as travertine junctions, that were used to link the stone blocks of Roman pavements

WHITE-GOLD necklace with a round-cut diamond (0.7 carats) and diamond pavé (7.79 carats) adorns Nicolette's neck.

WHITE-GOLD earrings with diamond pavé (3.24 carats)

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE ITALIAN JEWELER Bulgari remakes a classic line characterized by rigid, modular pieces that was first produced in the '70s. While staying true to the collection's motif, the distinct severity of the design, however, is conspicuously gone in the 2006 incarnation.

However unintentional, Bulgari also did away with the stiff formality of a five-course, sit-down meal when it recently launched the new Parentesi collection at the lobby of Ayala Museum. The invite instructed guests to come in "casual chic," making way for the after-party at Greenbelt 4's Zen Garden, where a wet bar was set up by the walkway. The cocktail spread was prepared by Peninsula Manila. DJ Manolet Dario spun.

Instead of the models making their way around the audience to show off the jewelry, as was customary in previous Bulgari shows, guests were encouraged to walk up to the "mannequins"—Nicolette Bell, Marilen Faustino, Bubbles Paraiso and Fortune Santos—who stood on mini platforms at the center, for a closer look at the pieces. The rest of the collection was spotlighted in four glass cases around the models. Sketches of the design evolution of Parentesi adorned a section of the venue.

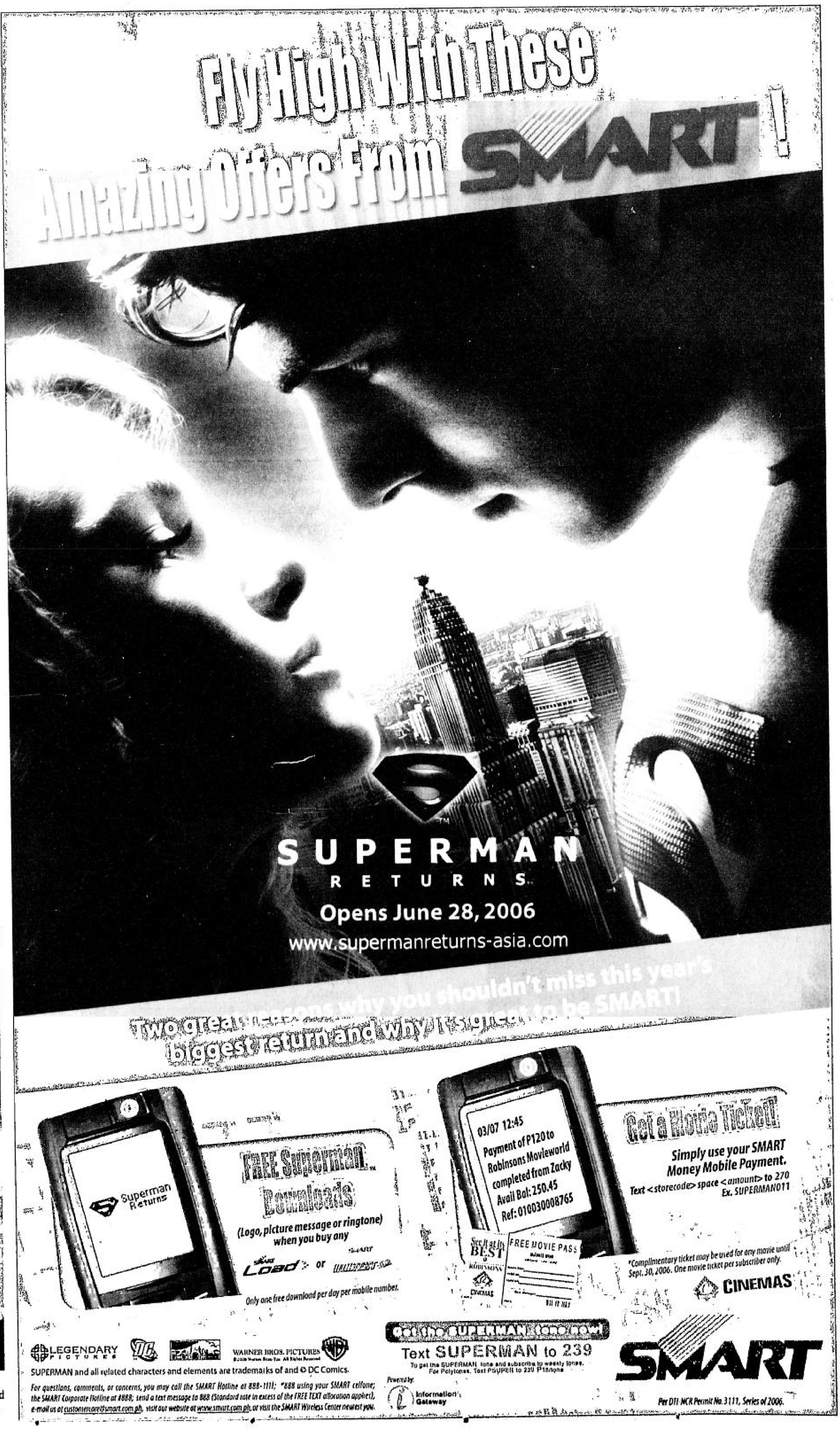
Parentesi was inspired by a curved line that's akin to the parenthesis mark (hence the name), known as travertine junctions. They were used to link the stone blocks of Roman pavements. Unlike the 1970s Parentesi necklaces, where the modular elements were adjoined to form one solid piece, the new line employs the design in its pendants, which swing freely in their chains. The earrings are similarly suspended to allow movement, affording the stones' facets to catch more light.

The collection comes in white and yellow gold, their opulence underscored by vari-cut diamonds. The centerpiece of the collection is a necklace with 85 carats of diamonds. But Bulgari clients here will have to make do with the, well, less lavish pieces as the said necklace is one-of-a-kind, and is not on display here, according to country manager Mario Katigbak.

While the remake has stuck to white diamonds, the Parentesi came out with multicolored stones in the '70s. Katigbak said Bulgari is likely to do so again in the future.

The collection also comes in pendants, rings, stud earrings and bracelets sans precious stones, more notably a yellow-gold bracelet with black leather strap and a white-gold pendant with cotton lace chain—both of them unisex pieces.

FORTUNE wears white-gold earrings with 2.05-carat diamond pavé and 18-k white-gold necklace with 2.59-carat full pavé diamonds.



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HOTSHOT founders of Enderun College, Hyatt Corp. COO Chuck Floyd and Hyatt Corp. VP for Northwest Division Frank Lavey; with Ambergrins Solutions CEO Javier Infante, working heiress Rosanna Tuason Fores, Enderun lead founder Jack Tuason, Jean Henri Lhuillier and Enderun board member John Suits

MENCHU Soriano and stunning daughter Sandra S.; sisters Gina Albert, Illa Albert Dempsey and Melissa Aboitiz Elizalde

PRETTY, pretty Luccia Tuason, *moi*, adorable Marilou Arroyo and vivacious Betsy Tuason

New hospitality school, new Japanese chef

AL TENGCO, Bukidnon Gov. Joe Zubiri and Iñigo Zobel

EYE-CATCHERS. Carol Garcia with sisters Ana Romualdez Tuason and Menchu Mantecon

FOOD and wine connoisseurs. Freddie Olbes, Enderun student Amanda Tengco and mother Carla Reyes Tengco

JAPANESE teachers demonstrating the tea ceremony

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

MOI COULDN'T BELIEVE THE NUMber of fashionable faces that flocked to the latest upscale culinary school in Cosmo Manille's Ortigas area.

The occasion was the new Enderun Colleges welcoming its pioneer batch at its campus at the Wynsum Corporate Plaza, in Ortigas Center, *palanggas*.

The grand gastronomic food and wine journey toured the students, their parents, members of the diplomatic corps and hotel industry hotshots to different classrooms, where they sampled products and wines representative of the participating countries, dahlings.

I went first to the magical Pacific island of New Zealand room, sponsored by the New Zealand Trade Enterprise, where invitees feasted on New Zealand mussels in Sauvignon Blanc, and succulent Roast Prime Rib of Beef, (which *moi* passed up), prepared by Enderun's mega chef, See Cheong Yan. For a touch of Maori, a Poi dance was performed.

Next stop was Canada, which presented a flavorsome experience with its smoked salmon, maple syrup-laced cheesecakes and decadent iced wine, all sponsored by the Canadian Embassy. The room was ablaze with fiery red maple leaves for a feel of autumn in Canada.

Then into the Philippine room, which had loads of culinary delights, all courtesy of San Miguel Pure Foods, like regional *longganisa*, beef *tapa pan de sal* and chicken *inasal* skewers.

Then on to France, where Alliance Française took all of us on a journey to discover "why French is the language of food... and love." The room had exquisite wines from the Sommelier selection and to-die-for patés from Pamora Farm.

There were also cheese and chocolate fondues from Switzerland; tapas, Rene Barbier wines and Freixenet *cava* from Spain; and a ravioli and dessert station in Italy.

Wines of the world were the highlight of the night: Mondavi from California; Ruffino from Italy; Mateus and Sandeman from Portugal; Trapiche from Argentina, Penfolds and Houghton from Australia; Shamwari from South Africa; and Valdivieso from Chile.

To sober up, the guests had ounces of espressos and cappuccinos from Café Mauro and Torani.

Enderun, dahlings, is a new four-year college that opened this June. The school offers a four-degree course in International Hospitality Management with the option of majoring in Hotel Administration or Culinary Arts.

Students at Enderun have a unique opportunity with the school's recently signed academic partnership with the world-renowned Les Roches Swiss Hotel Association School of Hotel Management, which allows Enderun students to earn certificates in Hospitality Operations from Les Roches, as they study for their bachelor's degrees at Enderun.

"The Les Roches certificate program will be fully integrated into the Enderun curriculum, and will allow Enderun students, who pass a qualifying exam, to gain Les Roches certification after only two years of study... and without having to leave the Philippines," explained mother-to-be Chiqui Torres-Tan, marketing manager of the school.

The Enderun Colleges Inc. is at 2/F, Wynsum Corporate Plaza, 22 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Visit www.enderun.com.ph, call 6385555, or e-mail admission@enderun.com.ph.

Rustan's and Intercon team up

The promise of a glorious season shone at the poolside garden of the InterContinental Manila, when Rustan's and the hotel unveiled their "fashion + lifestyle suggestions" before an enthusiastic crowd recently, *palanggas*.

In addition to the eye-catching treats on the ramp from Rustan's, the partying mob got acquainted with the hotel's great packages—from overnight to *famille* weekend stays at very attractive rates, with a host of perks such as complimentary Ayala Cinema tickets, Enchanted Kingdom passes and discounts on food and beverage and beauty salon and spa services.

Rustan's adorable royals **Rico Tantoco** and southern beauty **Nena Vargas Tantoco** were there, as well as **Joel Tantoco**. They welcomed the guests with Rustan's VP for fashion, **Gigi Mabanta**, as well as the Intercon's **Christian Pirodon**, marketing director **Carmela Bocanegra** and public relations director **Jenny Peña**.

The guests included **Edd Fuentes**; dashing businessman **Jacques Dupasquier**; **Audrey Tan-Zubiri**; Portuguese Ambassador **Joao Caetano da Silva**; Ralph's Wines' *bon vivant* **Ralph Joseph**; stylish **Lisa Ilarde-Cuenca**, **Marites Pineda**, **Yaying Dragon** and French Embassy Cultural Attaché, *trés charmante* **Carolle Lucas**.

Benkay's new chef

One of Manille's top star Japanese restos, Benkay serves a wide selection of Japanese dishes "made only from the best and freshest ingredients from Japan," explained **Francis de Leon**, Dusit Hotel Nikko's marketing communication manager.

Another reason to check out Benkay is the arrival of master chef **Yoshiaki Tomiyama** of Tokyo who has had 28 years of experience in Japanese cuisine.

Before lunch, chef Tomiyama demonstrated how to prepare succulent sushi and sashimi.

Then we were treated to a Japanese tea ceremony, a tradition handed down from the 16th century, before indulging on the excellent menu chef Tomiyama personally prepared, *palanggas*.

Chef Tomiyama created huge bento platters fillet with exquisite designs using the colors of spring. Inside were his springtime delicacy of boiled fish and crab meat paste rolls, shrimp in miso soy sauce and chicken meatballs, among a dozen other yummies.

Cherry blossoms added sweetness to chef Tomiyama's dessert creations of *kuzu mochi* (bean paste-filled jellies), *ayu yaki* or nightingale cake (pancake filled with bean paste) and milky green tea ice cream.

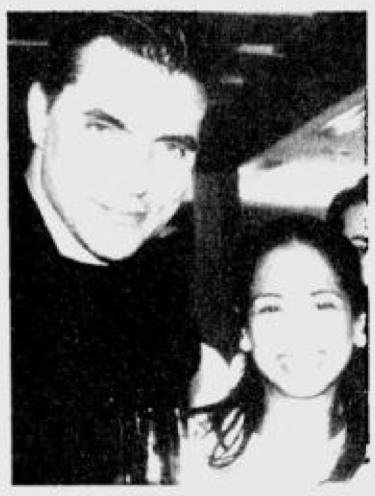
It was all a divine Japanese gastronomic experience.

"I would like to continue Benkay's stature as a top Japanese restaurant in the Philippines and assure patrons of our cuisine's authentic taste," the chef said. "Each item we offer is prepared with every effort to delight our guests every time they visit Benkay."

Benkay is located at the lobby and is open daily for lunch, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and for dinner, 6-10 p.m.

For reservations, call 8673333 ext. 3343, *palanggas*.

FORMER Trade Secretary Jose Concepcion, Mercy Tuason and Ching Montinola



IRON Chef Todd English of New York's famous Olives with Margarita Araneta Fores

PENINSULA'S First Couple. Marilou Toda and husband, Peninsula GM David Batchelor

AMARJIT Wassan and Richard Stanley of ADB

SAN MIGUEL Pure Foods chef Martin del Prado and Enderun's culinary director chef See Cheong Yan

SWITZERLAND'S Les Roches graduates Ines Cabarrus and DJ Montano

INTERCON'S sales and marketing director Carmel Bocanegra and TV executive Pat-P Daza

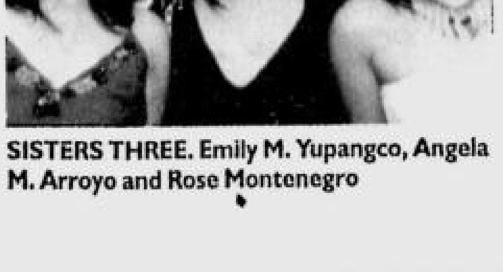
MANILA Shimbun's Virgilio Galvez; Vangie Reyes of INQUIRER; Dusit's marketing communications manager, Francis de Leon; and Raoul Cheekee of Business World

CHEF Yoshiaki Tomiyama of Benkay Japanese Restaurant

RUSTAN'S Southern lady Nena Vargas Tantoco, world-class couturier Pitoy Moreno and Rustan's VP for fashion Gigi Mabanta

EDD FUENTES and Marie Claire editor Myrza Sison

DUSIT'S marketing communications officer Lizel Ventoza; Ayn de Jesus of Manila Times; Bong Palma-Gil, AVP of Jayelles; and Roselle Rebano, president of Jayelles. Standing: Dusit's F&B director, Gilbert Uy; sales and marketing director Melotte Mondelo; and assistant sales director Mike Celis



SISTERS THREE. Emily M. Yupangco, Angela M. Arroyo and Rose Montenegro

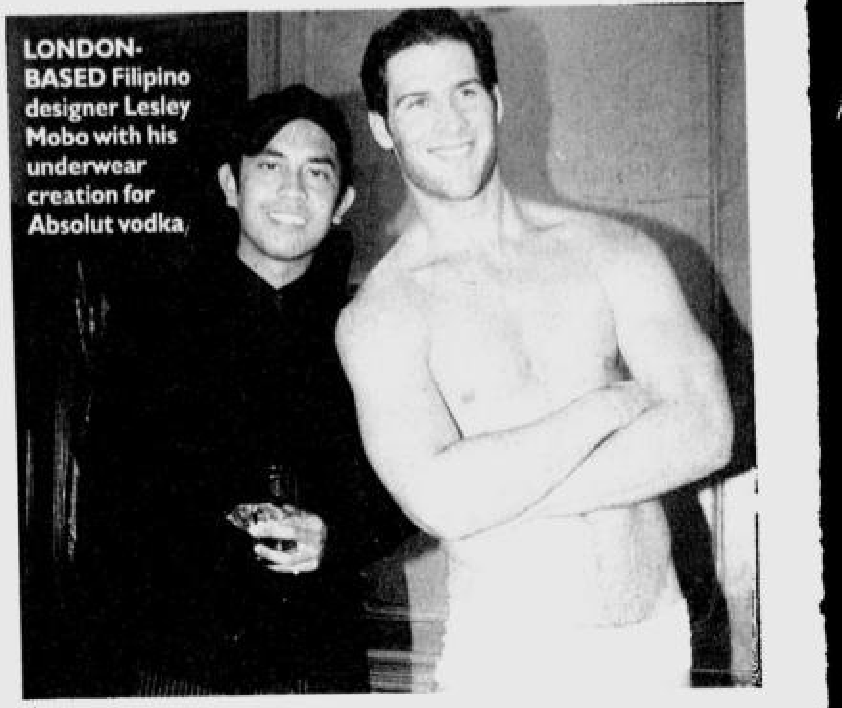
INTERCONTINENTAL Manila general manager Christian Pirodon and Rustan's president Rico Tantoco

FRANNIE Aguinaldo Jacinto and daughter Natalia

Pinoy is rising star in London fashion

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Ryan Lim

SKIN IS IN. Mobo's creation shares the stage with underwear designed by colleagues from as far as Sweden, India, Poland and Brazil.



LONDON-BASED Filipino designer Lesley Mobo with his underwear creation for Absolut vodka

LONDON-BASED FILIPINO DESIGNER Lesley Mobo shared the spotlight with seven other international fashion designers at the recent innerwear fashion show presented by Sweden's Absolut Vodka.

An empty house in Dasmariñas Village in Makati was packed with the usual faces belonging to Manila's social set, who air-kissed and chit-chatted through the night as they helped themselves with free-flowing booze and cocktail staples.

Mobo presented a pair of white briefs with Moulin Rouge-inspired elastic suspenders stitched to the waistband. The other featured designers were Ania Kuczynska (Poland), Apostolos Mitropoulos (Greece), Ashish (India), Jean-Pierre Braganza (Canada), Bambi (Spain), Neon (Brazil) and Swash (United Kingdom).

It was like a scene straight out of "Eyes Wide Shut," as scantily clad models in high heels and spruced-up masks entered the house's crowded parlor area one after the other. They reemerged a few minutes later without their masks (but with their undies still on).

Mobo's piece stood out from the rest since it was the only one that succeeded in titillating the predominantly female and gay audience.

Earlier, an unassuming Mobo, 27, greeted old friends and members of the media. Seven years ago, the Aklan native had been all set to start his fashion career in Manila (he had even trained under Inno Sotto) until London beckoned.

Thanks to his supportive parents, Mobo was able to finish fashion design at the prestigious Central Saint Martins. He denied he got a scholarship grant to study in the school, contrary to common perceptions.

"My family and I went through a lot for me to be able to study in London," he said. "We didn't have that much money, but my parents understood what I really wanted in life. They have been very supportive."

In due time, he started designing an RTW line for Harrods (yes, the department store owned by Egypt-born industrialist Mohamed Al Fayed, whose son Dodi died with Princess Diana in a car accident in Paris).

"Before I made it as an in-house designer at Harrods, I did all sorts of odd jobs," Mobo said. "It wasn't easy, to put it mildly. I paid my dues, and I guess my sacrifices and my sincerity to make a name in a pressure-laden profession paid off."

'Jasmine de Milo' line

Mobo wouldn't confirm it, but it had been widely rumored that he was the creative genius behind the "Jasmine de Milo" line credited to designer Jasmine di Milo, older sister of budding socialite Camilla Al Fayed and one of Mohamed's daughters. The label carries daywear, evening wear and party dresses for women aged 16 to 30. Mobo said the line would expand and hit stores in New York, Los Angeles and Moscow next year. He added the line had also set its sights on Spain, Italy, France and Dubai.

Lesley Mobo is designer of Harrods and widely rumored to be the creative brains behind the luxury house's hit fashion line

His homecoming may be a high-profile one, but Mobo makes it a point to visit the country three times a year, without fanfare. Whenever he's in Manila, he makes it a point to hook up with other designers to exchange notes and learn from them.

Mobo might not be the best person to say it, but he said he believed a talented designer didn't have to leave the country and make a name for himself abroad to gain validation. "You have to believe in yourself and be sincere in what you do," he said. "The Filipino talent has always been there. What it needs is nurturing, direction and funding."

It would help the industry a great deal if the government sent established talents to Europe to observe, he added. These designers, in turn, would have to come back and share their knowledge with colleagues.

As for Mobo, one of his long-term goals is to come back to the Philippines and share what he has learned abroad.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Ethel's journey

From page C4

ple didn't approach her readily, period, cancer or not.

We spent last weekend with her at Shangri-La Edsa, with nothing considerable to do, just watch DVD in the room, go malling and have dinner with select friends **Ricky**, **Annie**, **Mario** and **Jimmy**. It was meant to be an easy weekend in preparation for her second round of chemo set for last Monday.

"I'm back!" she said in her column. "The journey to health is bumpy and perilous and I'm not yet there."

Not there yet. Indeed hers is a journey, like everything else. And she seems to have a multi-approach to that journey—at times feisty, other times meek and accepting; sometimes gritty, other times scared. She tells us often that she can't stand "sanctimonious" (her word) SMS, or syrupy and maudlin ones. "Whatever happened to a simple, jolly hee-haw? As I lay in bed watching the slow drip of chemo, I certainly would enjoy even a green joke," she said.

There's hardly anyone we know who has a loved one, friend or acquaintance not suffering from cancer. Cancer seems to have become prevalent among young and old alike, rich or poor, to the point that it's become part of lifestyle. One afflicted with it has to learn to live with it, or live despite it.

Watching a friend try to hurdle it, what should you do? What you've usually done, I guess. There's no need to be abnormal or irregular about things. Nothing is more healing than letting a person with cancer stay in her comfort zone.

Just be there. I guess. There's no formula to it.

Toni's fight

Cancer has also struck another person in the lifestyle circle—Rustan's Essenses' **Toni Abad**, who's only in her thirties. Toni's just had surgery to arrest her breast cancer and she's doing chemo.

But what makes Toni's approach to her ailment different is how she wants to derive some sense of purpose out of it. She's now calling people's attention to the fact that her doctors suspect her breast cancer could have been caused by the breast augmentation she had in Los Angeles, with a famous doctor, 10 years ago. Toni is somehow convinced the saline implant had something to do with it.

Now she's telling people to be aware of the risks of breast augmentation and of the importance of regular breast examination.

Her ailment, Toni said, has brought her closer to God and to her family. She has the constant support of her loved ones, including her sister, **Pinky de Leon**. (Her mom is the actress **Lilia Dizon**, and her stepbrother, **Christopher de Leon**.)

Another cancer survivor, culture executive and academician **Sonia Ner**, formerly of Ayala Museum, hasn't only moved on but has always been so busy with her book projects, we learned. But what's really something to look forward to is, we were told, she's finally doing a design book on her sister, **Eli Pinto**, the mover of Philippine design and former Citem head who passed away last year.

It should be good that the current and future generations will learn from Eli's eye for design and aesthetics—which had an impact on the global scene.

Polo at Wimbledon

If we are bleary-eyed these days, it must be from lack of sleep—because it's Wimbledon. For the first time in its 129-year history, this prestigious tennis tradition that has influenced fashion through the decades, has tapped a foreign fashion designer to design the uniforms of its umpires and ball staffs. Polo Ralph Lauren has done blue blazers, skirts and pants for Wimbledon. Just press your remote control to see what we mean.

There's a tennis influence in today's fashion trends—skirt, culottes, minis, shorts, tanks. I'm delighted to learn that tennis getups are among the coolest with today's preteens, even if they never held a tennis racket and don't intend to.

It's driven also by the fact that **Stella McCartney** did a tennis line for Adidas, which we got (and burned a hole in our pocket in the process). Her shirts are cool, so are her tight Bermudas and shirred tanks. But, if you play the game and know what sweating is like, there's still nothing like Nike's dri-fit. You don't get soaked in sweat and your skin gets to breathe.

Oh, bonding or not, there's one thing I never got Ethel to do—watch TV tennis with me.

Application for design contest now open

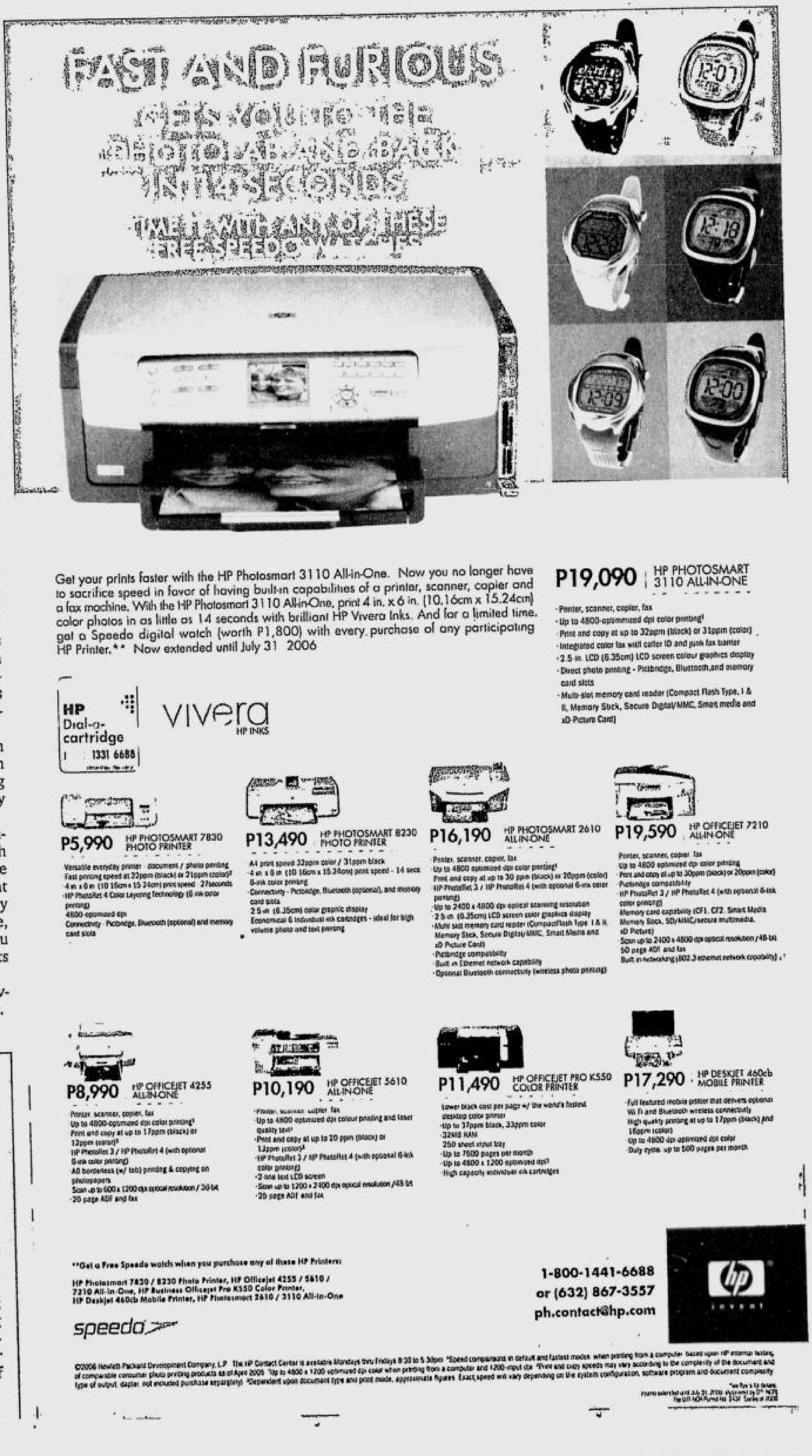
THE FASHION & DESIGN Council of the Philippines (FDCP) will begin accepting applications for the Philippine Fashion Design Competition 2006 end of the month.

Forms and guidelines may be downloaded from www.fdcp.org beginning June 30.

Accomplished forms should be submitted to the FDCP Office, Suite 1-B, The Colonnade Residences, 132 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City.

The Grand Finals Night will be held Oct. 25 at the Glorietta Activity Center, in cooperation with Saga events + models and the Commercial Centers Group of Ayala Land, Inc.

Winners will represent the Philippines at the International Competition of Young Fashion Designers 2006 in Montreal, Canada, in December. This year's event has for its theme "Fashion as an Expression of Mind and Body."



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Ethel's journey

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

OVER BREAKFAST LAST Sunday, the first thing Ethel asked for was the newspaper so she could read her column. That was a good sign—at least she was highly spirited enough to want to read what she wrote. It was her first column in months, and it was about how she's trying to survive cancer.

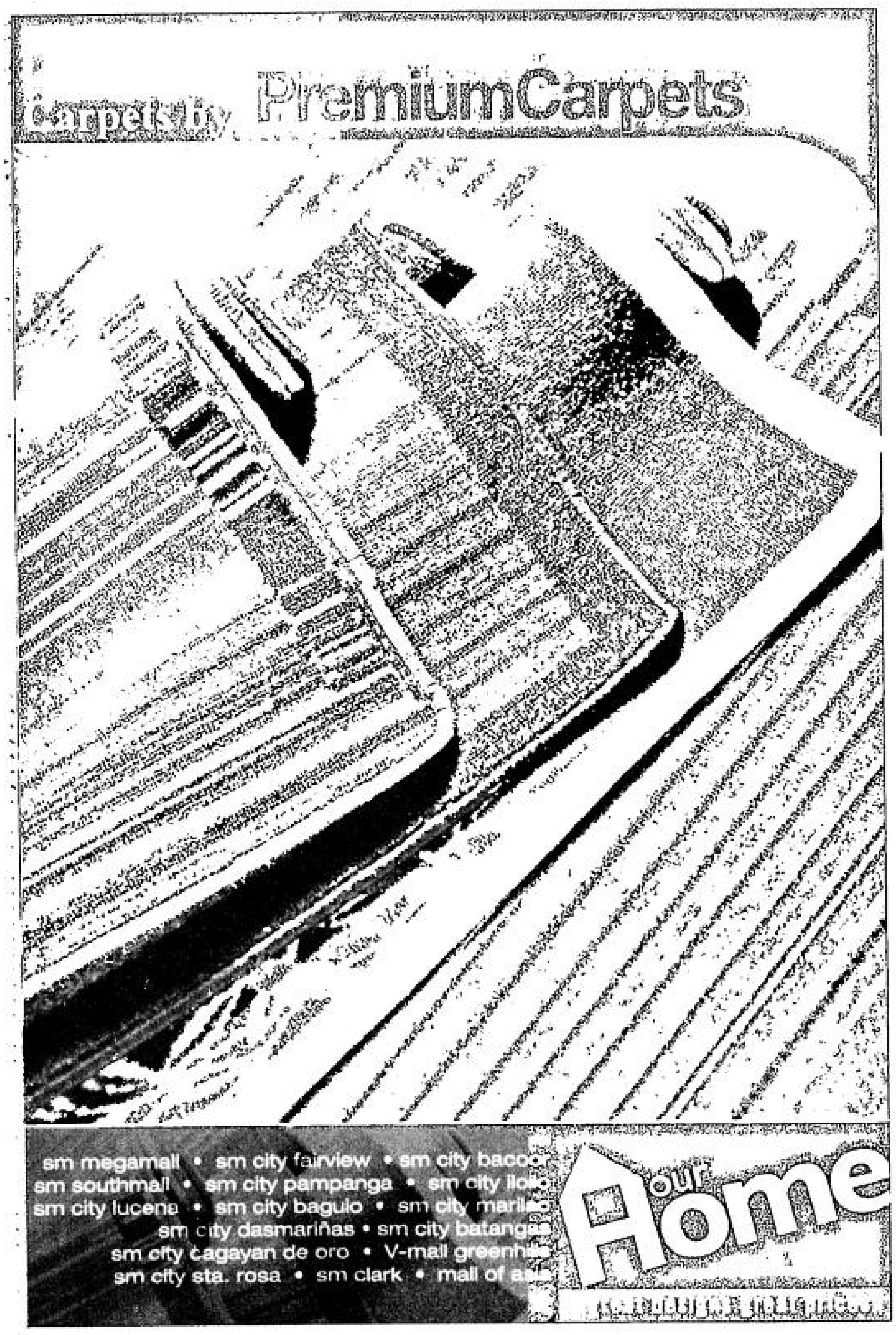
For the past two months, society editor **Ethel Timbol** has been in and out of work. She had surgery and her first round of chemo.

When Ethel was told by her doctor about two months ago that she had colon cancer and needed immediate surgery, she wasn't only depressed—it wasn't that simple. I felt like she got into a whirlwind of emotion, mood and mindset. Late last year, she thought she didn't have it because the tests were negative. You could just imagine the roller-coaster of emotion she went through when it was confirmed she had cancer.

Of course, people didn't find it easy to approach Ethel about her ailment. In fact, peo-

Watching a friend try to hurdle cancer, what should one do?

ETHEL'S/ C3



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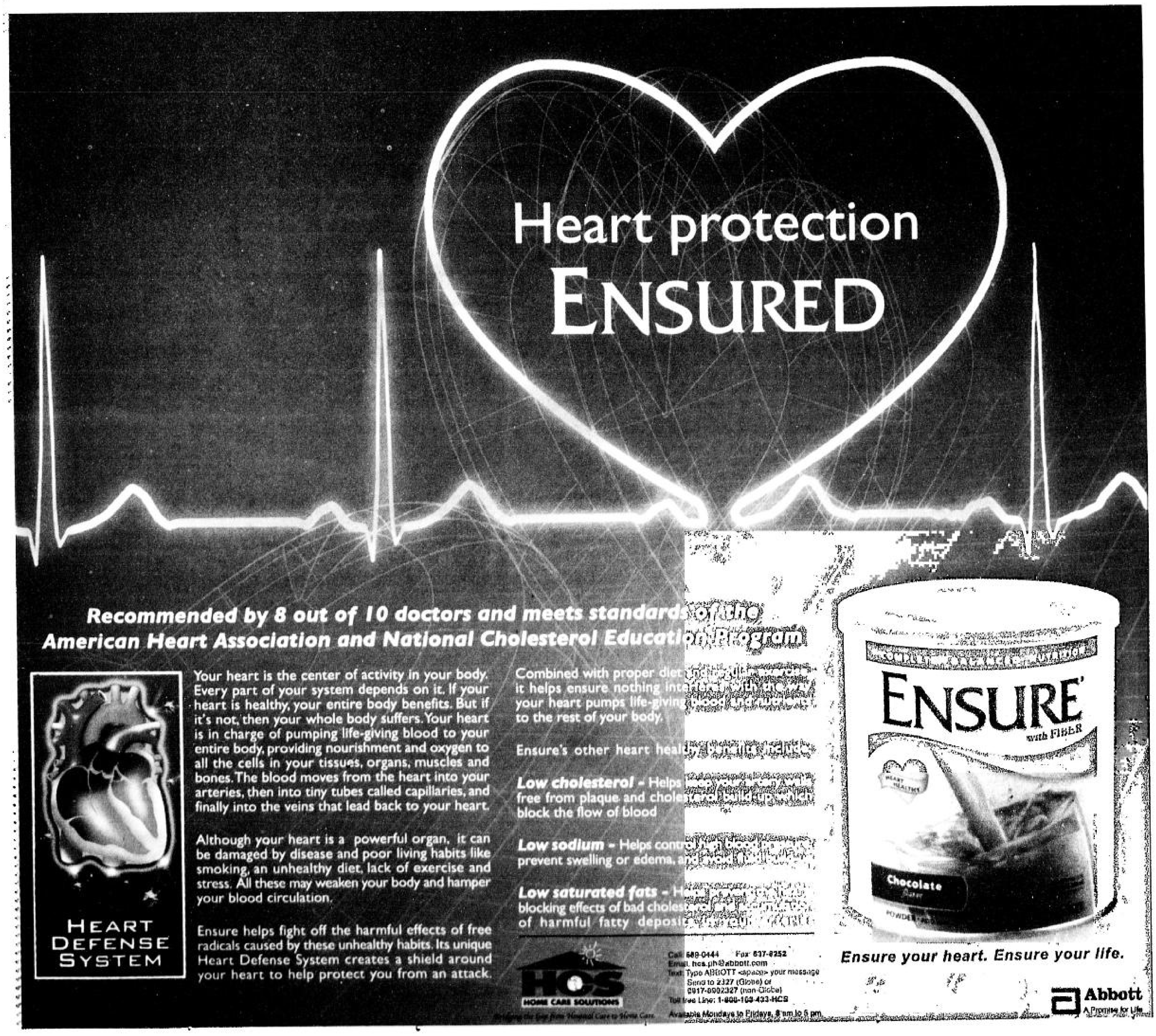

Heart protection
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Recommended by 8 out of 10 doctors and meets standards of the American Heart Association and National Cholesterol Education Program

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Combined with proper diet [illegible] it helps ensure nothing interferes with the way your heart pumps life-giving blood [illegible] to the rest of your body.

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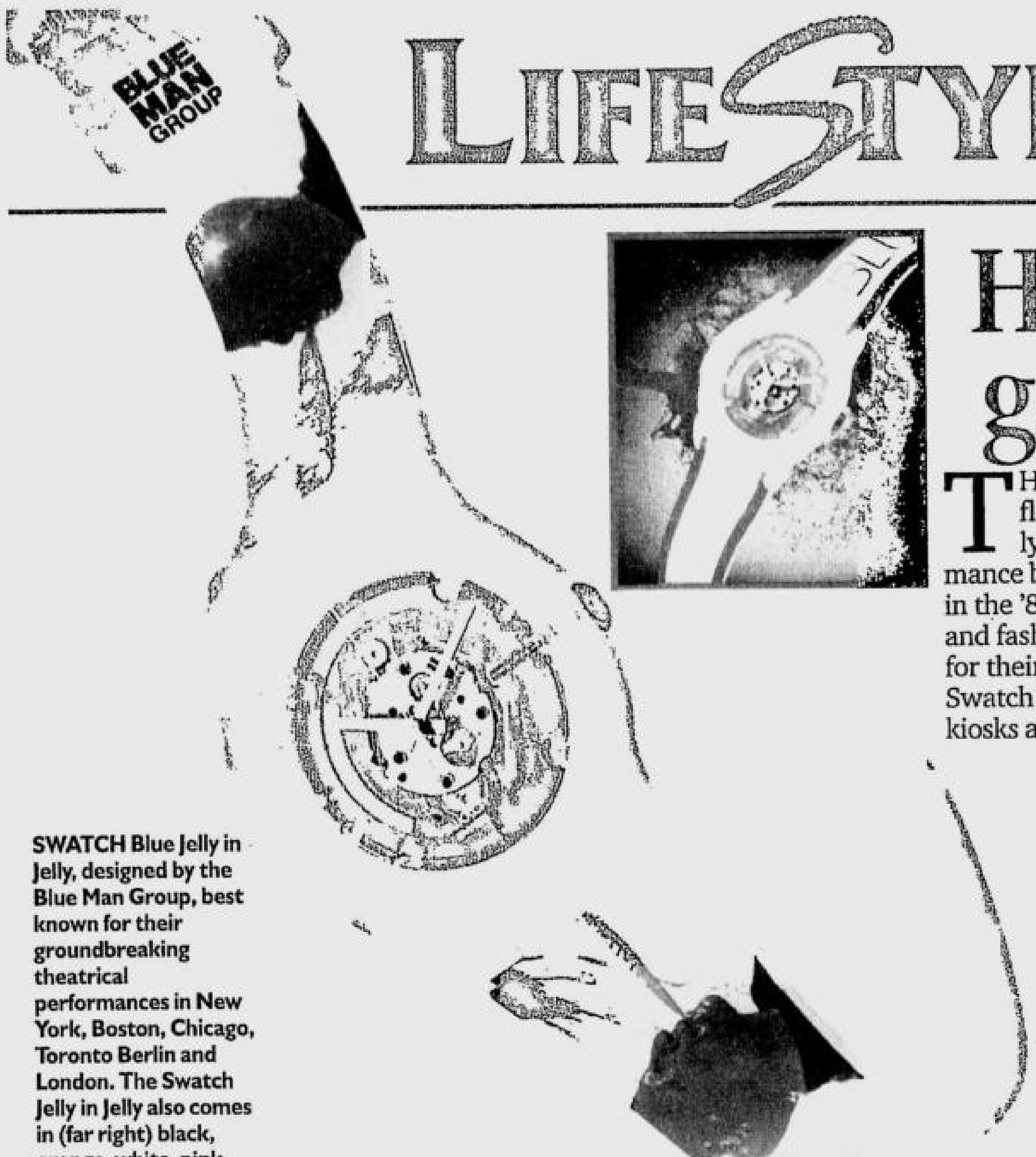
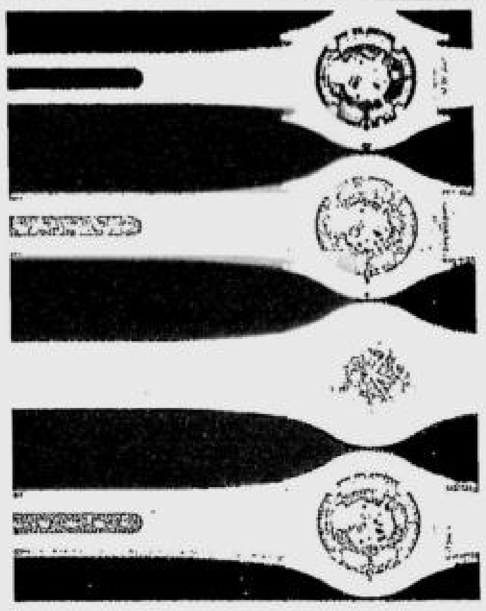


Have a jelly good time

THE SPLASHED ART IDEA GOT THE JUICES flowing over at Swatch and inspired the Jelly in Jelly collection. Once again, the line represents a romance between Swatch and the arts, an affair that started in the '80s when the Swiss watch label linked up with art and fashion icons. This time, the Blue Man Group, known for their multimedia artistry, brings humor and art to the Swatch Blue Jelly in Jelly. Available at Swatch stores and kiosks and distributed exclusively by Gift Gate.



SWATCH Blue Jelly in Jelly, designed by the Blue Man Group, best known for their groundbreaking theatrical performances in New York, Boston, Chicago, Toronto Berlin and London. The Swatch Jelly in Jelly also comes in (far right) black, orange, white, pink and (inset) blue.

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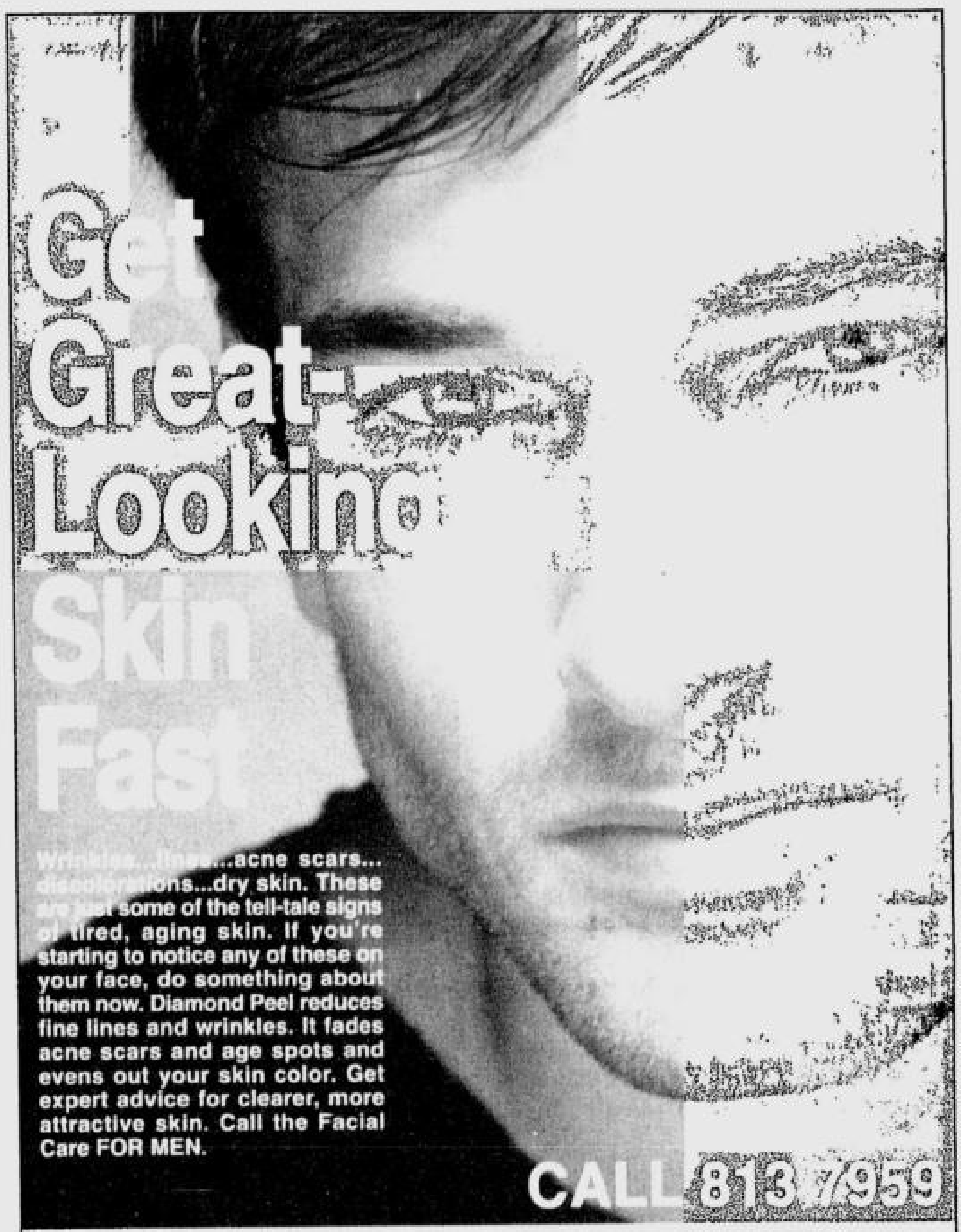

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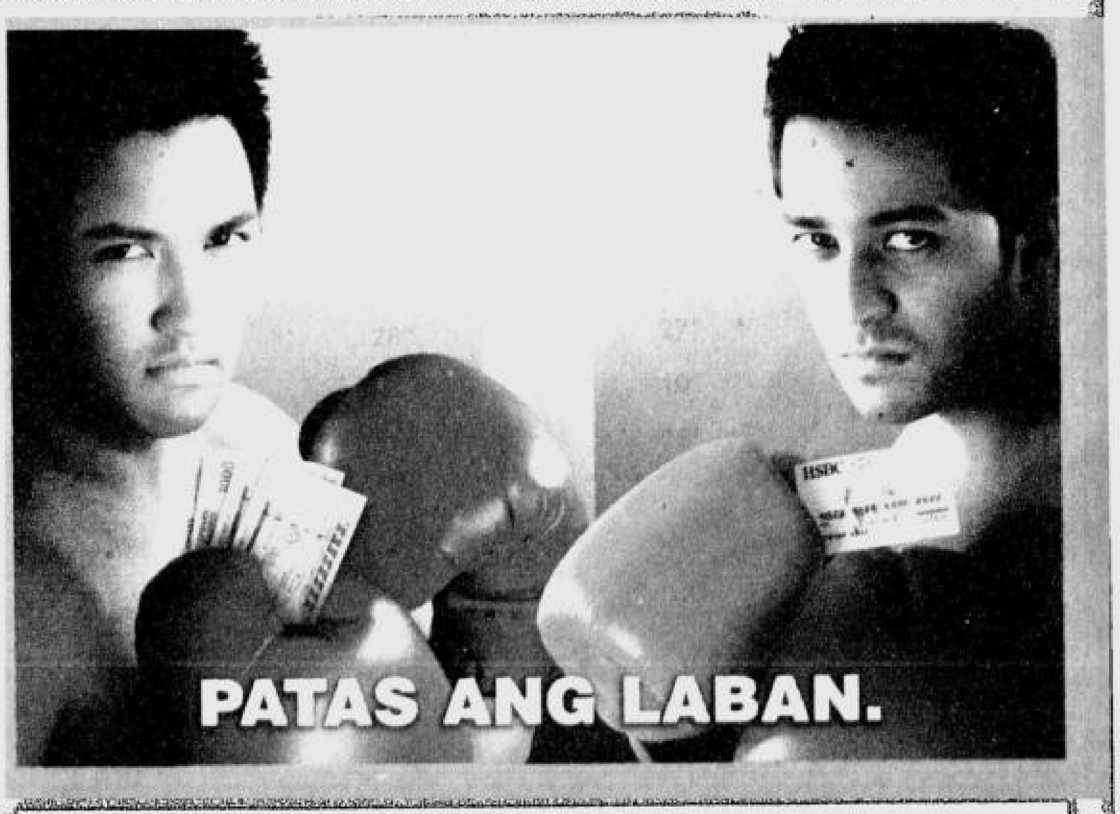
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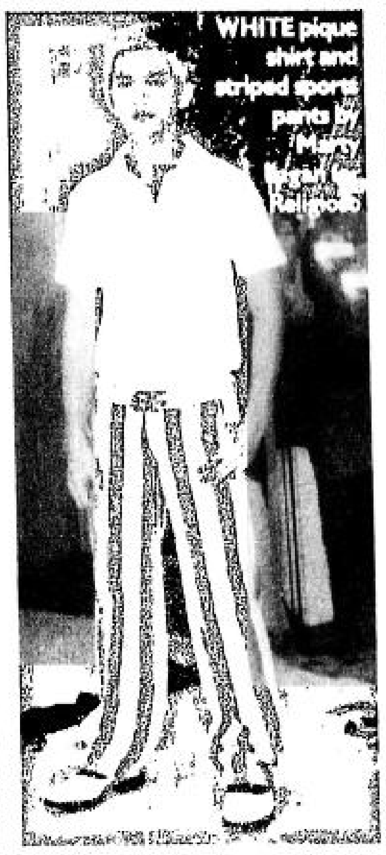
NEW FASHION HOUSE RELIGIOSO RECENTLY OPENED ITS doors at Shangri-La Mall, with a fashion show featuring the ladies line by Yvette Religioso-Ilagan and Choc Religioso-Dayrit, as well as Aldrich Dayrit's creations for Religioso Homme and Religioso by Marty Ilagan, the sportswear line.

Preview editor in chief Pauline Suaco-Juan and columnist Mons Romulo-Tantoco cut the ribbon, together with Religioso family patriarch Onofre Religioso.

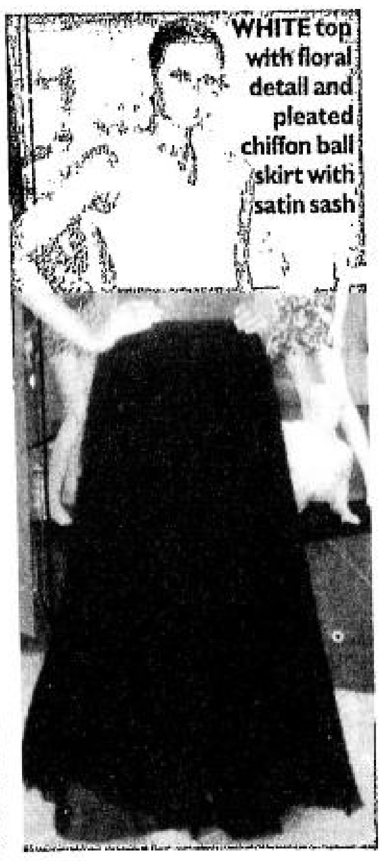
Treated to a sumptuous spread from Billy King's Le Chef were guests Eric Maningat, JC Buendia, Patrick Rosas, Patrick Uy, Agoo Bengzon and Liza Ilarde, among others. Shu Uemura's Tina Tinio and Xeng Zulueta left the fete toting Religioso's brown carrier bags, as did Corcor Bitong and Lyn Agustin of Bayo.

Religioso is at the 3rd level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City. Call 6332901.

CANARY-YELLOW tennis



WHITE pique shirt and striped sports pants by Marty Ilagan for Religioso



WHITE top with floral detail and pleated chiffon ball skirt with satin sash

Is your child happy and ready for school?

Reloza

This scene is replicated many times on the first day of classes: A pre-schooler wails and clings to his mother to protest being left alone with strangers in the unfamiliar place that is school. Unable to convince her child that school is fun, the parent will struggle to part ways with the child. There will be more sobbing, wailing or screaming until the parent is able to leave, and both will be very upset. The child will feel abandoned, while the parent may leave the premises teary-eyed as well. Indeed, the first few days of school can be potentially distressing for both parents and children, so that parents should also ask themselves, "Are we ready to send our child to school?"

To help families encourage a child's enthusiasm for learning, Abbott Philippines embarked on a "School Preparedness Program" with child psychologist and early education expert Rafael "Raffy" Reloza as partner. "It is important to assure a child that school is a safe place, "says Reloza. A positive and pleasant atmosphere is always conducive to learning.

In doing so, parents should do their homework, too. It would be wise to look into multiple learning programs of the school to help their children adjust and excel in the school environment.

Teachers are crucial, and the ideal teacher has the proper qualifications and training experience. Teachers are caring individuals who inspire creativity and learning. There is a current trend to send children to school at an early age because the exposure enables a child to socialize with other children. At the same time, the supervision of qualified teachers offers a distinct advantage since trained professionals are infinitely more equipped to provide mental stimulation for the child. Thus, working parents would rather enroll their young offspring in a good school, than leave the children with caregivers at home.

To avoid "first-day-of-school-blues," teachers in some pre-schools conduct home visits before the school year begins. "The extra effort made by the teachers will be worthwhile since s/he becomes a familiar face and adjustment to the school environment will not be too difficult," says Reloza. In more progressive schools, family photos may be displayed,

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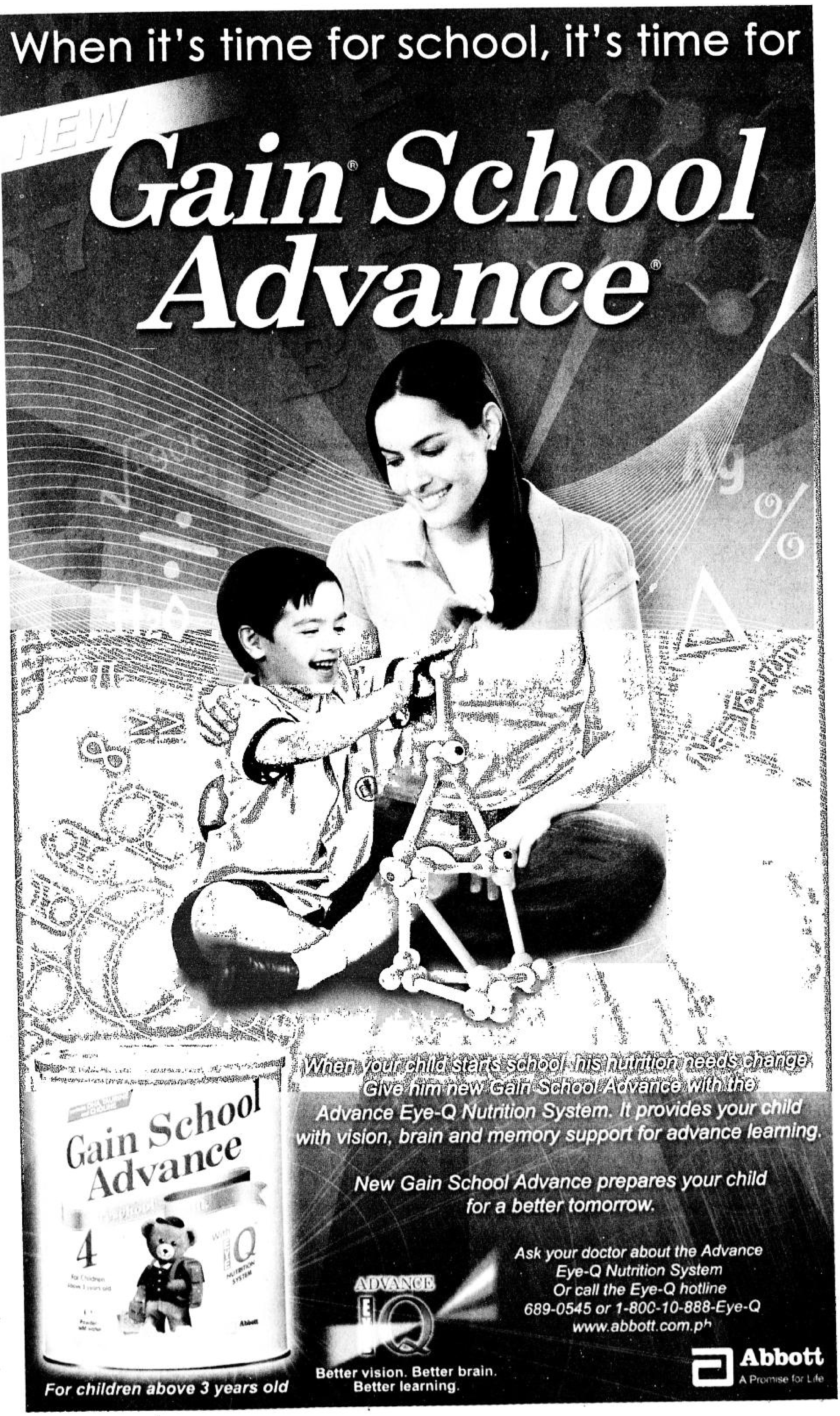

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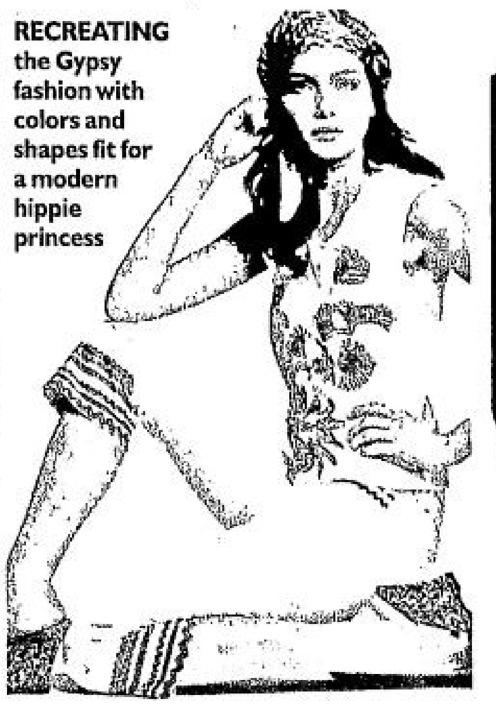
THE CLASSIC APPEAL OF BLACK AND WHITE IS combined with geometric and floral patterns in Escada Sport's new collection. Cotton jackets with ¾-length sleeves, large black buttons, wide piping and contrasting stitching are combined with brief horizontally striped tops, capri pants, and pleated skirts.

Gypsy fashion is given a more romantic feel with Escada Sport's emphasis on colors and feminine shapes. Frills and flounces flirt with flowers, paisley, and wild-cat prints for dreamy and waterfall-styled skirts.

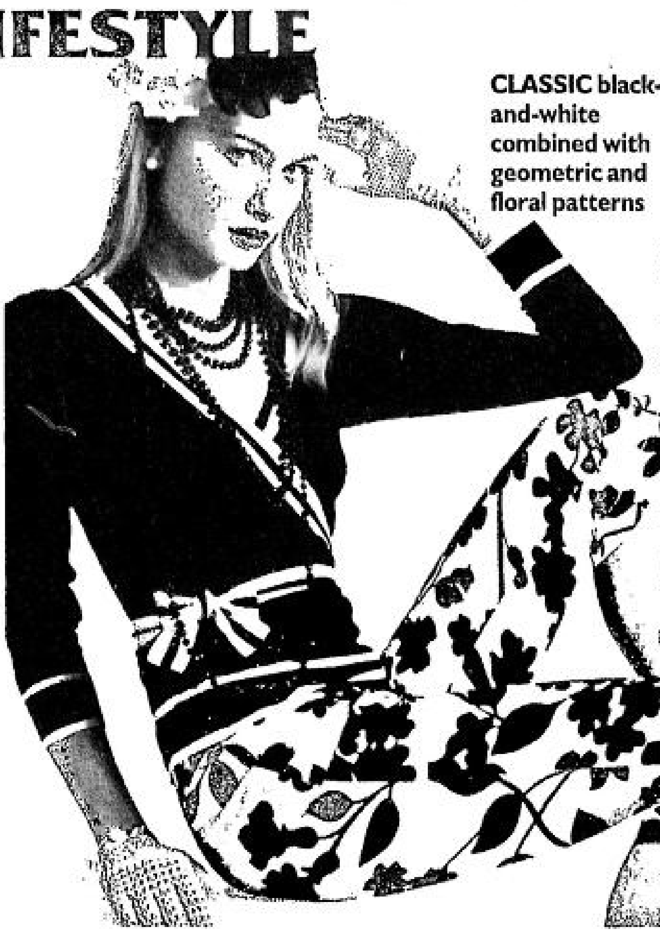
Lightweight silk-linen suits come alive with the colors of a Sri Lankan sunset. Multicolor tiger print in dresses and airy kaftan blouses are perfect with draped skirts and narrow, long, sophisticated dresses.

Prints in tropical blossoms and leaves are combined in colors of yellow, turquoise and lobster red. Crocheted tops or long-sleeved pullovers are embroidered with the same floral patterns, creating shimmering effects through the use of delicate lurex threads or Swarovski crystals.

The Escada Sport shop is located at the 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, and Glorietta 4 in Makati.



RECREATING the Gypsy fashion with colors and shapes fit for a modern hippie princess



CLASSIC black-and-white combined with geometric and floral patterns

MULTICOLORED tiger prints in dresses and airy kaftans

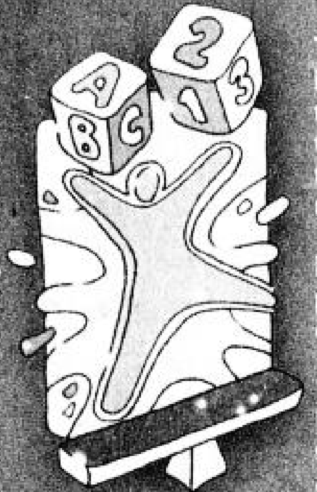
Exploring the School Zone

with Raffy Reloza, M.A.

Child Psychologist and Early Education Expert

Better Vision. Better Brain. Better Learning

Pick from a pack of preschools

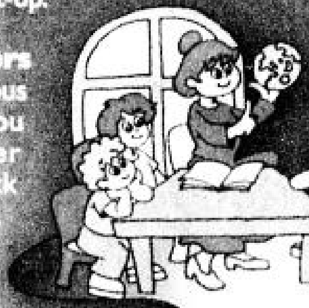


The little bundle of joy you brought home is now a bundle of energy tearing around the house. It's time to choose a preschool that will provide the right environment to make your child feel enthusiastic about mastering new skills.

Here's a quick guide to the quest for the preschool that's perfect for preparing your child to a life of advance learning:

1. **Do your homework early.** Look into multiple learning programs to find out what is most appropriate for your child. Arrange for a tour. Schedule a follow-up visit and bring your child to check how he or she will function within the program. Slots are often limited so start your research early to make sure your child can join the school.

2. **Find out if the school is a good fit.** Take time to think about whether your child will thrive in a busy and active place with lots of other kids or feel more comfortable in a small and nurturing environment. Ask school authorities about the size of their classes and the ratio of teacher per child. It's important to consider how your child's personality will adapt to the school set-up.



3. **Evaluate the teaching facilitators and staff.** You will entrust your most precious child in the hands of total strangers, so you better be sure they have the proper qualifications and training experience. Check how long they have been with the school. Do they have their own children as well? Do they have kids?

4. **[illegible] educational model.** Some schools' approach to learning is play-based while others use more traditional methods. Some schools integrate multiple educational philosophies. Again, you are the best judge of what is most suitable because you know the needs of your child best.

5. **Assess the children's activities.** Take a look at the different areas in the room, such as the art section and building blocks corner to get an idea of how the school structures its activities. Do the children work independently or with others? Are the kids encouraged to use their imagination and to engage in pretend-play fantasy? Do they have the leeway to run around in the yard? Remember: fun is a key element in learning.

6. **Know the school's approach to literacy.** Children exhibit different levels of readiness to reading. Some are inclined to learn how to read right away while others may not be quite as ready. Analyze if the school method is right for your child. When pushed too soon, some kids might find it hard to cope and shy away from reading, an attitude that could stay with them [illegible]

7. **Clarify the school's feedback policy.** It is important to know how the school's administration and teaching staff plan to keep you informed about your child's progress. Some schools have meeting schedules to update you and answer your questions. Some even have a newsletter. Know the contact numbers and information of key facilitators like their cell phone numbers, email address, etc.

8. **Check disciplinary action on misbehavior.** Ask how the school will deal with common misbehavior among children. Is your child going to be punished? In what way? Will the teachers consult with you first before they administer any form of penalty? Is it the policy of the school to work with you in dealing with your problems as they arise?

9. **Obtain a copy of the class schedule.** This is to give you an idea of how much of your child's time in school will be devoted to different activities and classes. Likewise, it tells you how the day will be structured to cater to your child's physical, emotional and intellectual needs.

10. **Get the names of your co-parents.** Get the names and contact information of the parents of other kids. Talk to them and ask specific questions. This is a good way to thresh out your doubts and worries, particularly if you're a first-time parent, and will form the basis of a good support group.

A positive and pleasant school atmosphere helps ensure your child will be open to advance learning in school. Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions you will ever make, so take the time to give it some thought.

Raffy Reloza

A noted early education specialist, Raffy Reloza has a dozen years' experience in teaching preschool kids. [illegible] psychologist and counselor [illegible] conducts therapy and [illegible] sessions for kids. Raffy [illegible] Master's Degree in Child and Family Development from the Ateneo de Manila University and [illegible] Director of the UNIK Center for the Deaf and Loop School for Young Children.

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For Children Above 3 years old
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Continuation...

further signaling to the child that school is merely an extension of the home.

How would you know that your child is doing well in pre-school? How old should a child be when s/he is sent to school? Raffy Reloza advises, "Don't rush your kids. Raise them yourself for as long as you can." Age should not be the sole determinant for school readiness. Each child is unique; and while some may be precocious, some children will be late-bloomers. In choosing a pre-school, you are the best judge of what is suitable to the needs of your child. You may opt for a school with a play-based approach, choose one that integrates multiple educational philosophies, or decide on a school that emphasizes an early introduction to math and reading.

"Parents know best when their children are ready for school. When a child wakes up early each morning, packs a school bag and pretends to go to school with an older sibling, s/he is obviously ready and eager for pre-school," says Reloza. In addition, restlessness at home may indicate boredom and a surfeit of energy. The child may be set for the mental stimulation, active physical activities and friendships available at school.

How do we equip our children to be ready for Advanced Learning? Good nutrition is essential for growth and development. To enable our children to face the new challenges of the pre-school environment, we try to make sure that they eat healthy food with enough nutrients to fuel their boundless energy. More importantly, we look out for new products that will enhance their various acuities.

By launching Gain School Advance, a milk formula for pre-school children, Abbott has the parents' concerns in mind. As a formula with the unique Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System to enhance visual, brain, and memory development, Gain School Advance is a healthy option. It is a quick and nutritional drink for growing children to help them cope with the new challenges of school.

Rosco the Gain School Bear with some new playmates.

Upsilon holds fraternity ball, induction tonight

GOINGS ON

THE UPSILON SIGMA PHI ALUMNI ASSOciation with the Upsilon Sigma Phi chapters of UP Diliman and UP Los Baños will hold a fraternity ball, "Let's Get Leid," tonight at 7 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. The ball will also celebrate the formal induction of new brothers. Call 7533595.

STORE OPENING. The country's sixth Sony Ericsson Concept Shop has opened at the SM Mall of Asia.
To celebrate the event, Sony Ericsson is giving away free items with every purchase of a Sony Ericsson handset. The store bears the distinctive Sony Ericsson retail design for the Asia Pacific. All purchases come with a full warranty. The new Sony Ericsson Concept Shop also offers after-sales service, assuring fast service and the use of genuine parts. On select weekends until July 31, visitors will also be treated to free demonstrations of the award-winning K750i and W810i, plus free photo printing for Sony Ericsson camera phones.

SHOP AND PLAY. Tom's World, one of the country's leading amusement centers and Robinsons Malls, will launch "Shop and Play," a special promo which rewards shoppers with free game tokens. The promo will run from July 1-31 in Robinsons Department Stores, Robinsons Supermarket and Handyman Do It Best in participating malls—Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Place Angeles and Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa.

TOY STORE OPENING. Toys "R" Us opens today its first store in the country at the 4/L of Robinsons Galleria. The new store's 2,500 square-meter space at the Galleria will be a big box of surprises and quality toys, games, books, educational and developmental products, sporting goods, infant and children's apparel, furniture, and many more. The store will also feature the seven toy zones that every one of about 1,400 branches around the world is known for. The zones or destinations sell all kinds of playthings, according to age and need. The seven zones are Girls', Boys', R-Zone, Family Fun, Outdoor and Sports, Universe of Imagination (science and educational toys) and Babies "R" Us.

NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST. The new IBT testing system will be introduced in the Philippines this month. The system is an integrated assessment of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. With this new test, Philippine institutions will have more confidence in their students' ability to use English. Students would also be more confident of their skills. The Educational Testing Service (ETS) is recruiting colleges, universities and language schools to become part of the worldwide testing network. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) IBT Certified Test Administration Site could be assessed via e-mail (reorlett@ets.org) or website (www.ets.org/ecep).

SEMINARS. CFS Creative Training and Management is offering the following seminars: "Warehouse Management" (July 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Conducting Successful Negotiation" (July 7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Staging Effective Presentations" (July 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Developing Excellent Business Communication Skills" (July 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Production Planning and Control That Works" (July 28-29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358 and 8234825.

IRIDOLOGY COURSE. A comprehensive iridology course, to be conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Micaller, will be held July 3-7 in Davao City (082-3003053). Iridology or iris analysis is an assessment tool used to determine genetic predisposition of the organs. Micaller is the only Filipino and Asian to be a Certified Comprehensive Instructor declared by International Iridology Practitioners based in United States.

In Manila, iridology practitioners are invited to take up "Schlecology Course" July 18-21 (7241093).

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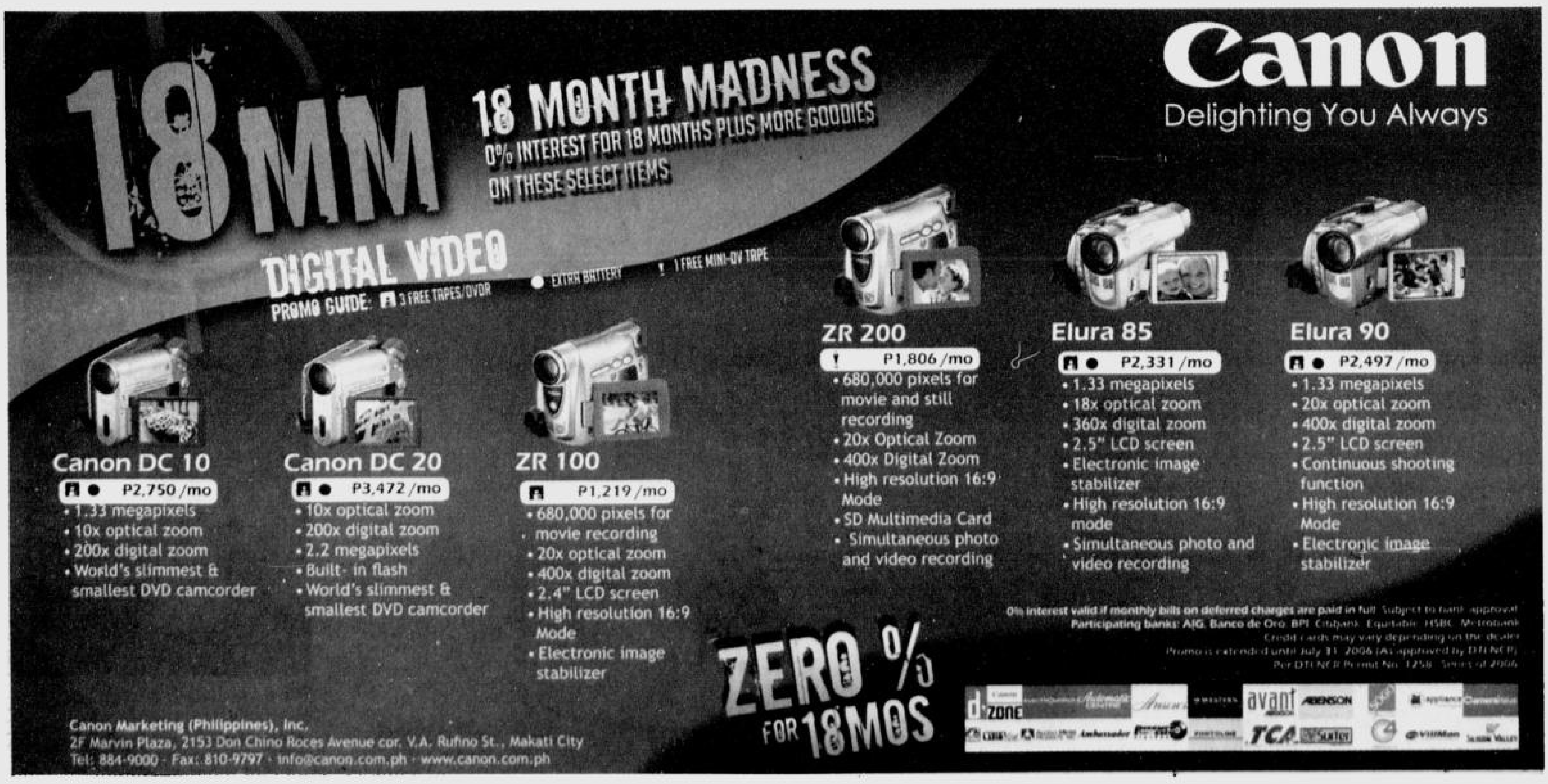

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BEAUTY

METEORITES

Gleam like a porcelain goddess

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

MY FASCINATION FOR PALE glowing skin was there even before I started school. While everyone wished they were tan and blonde Barbie, I wanted to look like Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, Morticia Addams or Lilly Munster with their alabaster skin, blue-black hair and red lips.

Although most of my readers long for porcelain skin, they do not share my love for Goth. I just realized that the appeal of lighter skin is the glow that comes with it.

This theory was confirmed when I put three light-skinned women together and asked 13 women who longed for light skin whose color they liked best. Nine out of the 13 didn't necessarily pick the one with lightest skin, but the one that seemed to glow because of her good skin quality. In fact, this girl was the least fair among the trio, but her skin gleamed like a pearl compared to the other two, who, although fairer looked flat like Oslo paper and eggshells.

Here are my recently road-tested favorites in cosmetics for natural-looking brighter skin that glows. These are responsible for the recent compliments I get on my "naturally" perfect skin whatever time of day.

After my basic cleansing program of cleanser, toner and treatment, I apply a primer which covers minor skin imperfections and makes foundation go on more evenly and stay longer.

If you are bothered by your skin's sallowness (too much yellow undertones) pick primers with blue or purple undertones like Awake Invention color manage makeup base SPF 15 PA++ in Stella Blue or Shu Uemura Protector TTL Defender SPF 25, a matte lavender lotion.

If you are happy with your skin's undertone but just want a little brightness, use La Prairie's Skin Cellular White Whitening Primer SPF 20 which has little reflects that makes pores look smaller and packs that added gleam I have been raving about. This last one is perfect for drier skin to use alone.

Step 2 is the whitening powder foundation that actually inhibits melanin production and of course, contains SPF as well. My favorites are Guerlain Perfect White C SPF 25 PA++, Shu Uemura White Recovery EX SPF 25 PA++, and on dry-skin days Clinique's Dermawhite powder makeup SPF 15. Take time to ask the well-trained salespeople to test the shades on you so you can find your perfect color for that natural seamless look of flawless skin without makeup effect. Don't let them pressure you into buying the product right there and then. Move on to the next counter and test another foundation so you can compare which finish you like best and which disappears into your skin. Also, take your budget into account.

Step 3 is my finale and where I obtain my special glow. I apply Guerlain's trademark product Meteorites powder in Mythic 01 (P2,650) during the day, which corrects the skintones with green balls for redness, lavender to correct sallowness, white to highlight and add a glow, pink for that flush, gold to add radiance.

Guerlain sent me their newest Meteorites called White Pearls 00 (P2,850) which I use at night for a more dramatic ethereal effect. The powder pearls are Gold, Pearly Pink, White Pink, Pearly Blue, White and Pearly Mauve. The effect is naturally luminous skin without making you starchy artificial white. Please just pick one Meteorites Pearl color as getting both is too decadent. Those with light skin can get away for using White Pearls 00 for day and night but those who do not want to glow that much should stick to Mythic 01.

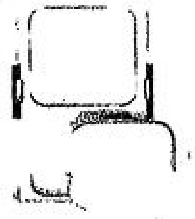
Touch-ups

I am so into lavender powder right now for that anti-sallow but very natural shade of radiant white which makes me look like a Hong Kong movie star. I carry Guerlain's Violettes pressed powder in Lavender 05 (P2,550) in my purse wherever I go for touch ups. They have a loose powder version (P2,350) for use at home to set makeup. The Lavender 05 shade is exclusive for Asia alone due to its ability to neutralize yellow tones. For those who want a more natural and less dramatic finish, I would suggest going for Beige 03 in loose and pressed.

All products mentioned above are exclusively available at Rustan's Department store cosmetics floor.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

SHU UEMURA White Recovery EX whitening powder foundation SPF 25



CLINIQUE Dermawhite powder makeup SPF15

GUERLAIN Voilettes Pressed Powder in Beige 03

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TEAM LISTERINE

Color coding

The makeup shades that we use should be dependent on the shade of our skin

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

MESTIZA, CHINITA, morena. These are the different types of Filipina beauties.

But the truth is, choosing which category we fall under can be quite an interesting discussion. My friend Cris Ortigas is *morena*, but she also has dominant Spanish features that make her *mestiza*. So *mestiza* then doesn't automatically mean light-skinned, right?

And there is also a much more complicated mix like my friend Katrina Gohu, who is *chinita* because her father is Chinese, but also has *mestiza* features which she got from her mom side. What is she then—*chinita* or *mestiza*? But since her Chinese eyes are the ones that get noticed more, we've concluded that she is *chinita* and not *mestiza*.

When it comes to me, it really depends on my color. Some say I am *chinita*, and when I have my hair colored light I can look *mestiza* since my nose is pointed. Yes, my nose becomes a major player. But when I'm dark I'm *morena*—period. Forget about the eyes and the nose. Truth is... who knows!

I figured only a few are pure *mestiza, chinita* or *morena*. Most of us are lost in-between. I fall under the in-betweens. But right this moment, due to my lack of sun exposure, I definitely look *chinita*. Being yellow is a big factor, I guess.

Actually, come to think of it, I look very Filipino. It is getting confusing. I am confused and am sure I have confused you guys, too.

Flawless complexion

Sorry. But I do have a point and it has to do with color.

The shades that we use should be dependent on the shade of our skin. If there is such a thing as *morena* or *mestiza* makeup, basically it means light- or dark-skinned. And the best thing you can do for your skin is to use the right product that would enhance your skin color and create a flawless complexion.

To create this, you would want these products available to you: foundation, concealer, powder, blush and translucent powder—either an illuminator or bronzer.

Foundation. Not everyone needs to use foundation, but if you have uneven skintone then this is a must-have. The best foundation should blend with the skin effortlessly and erase all discolorations while protecting your skin from the harmful rays of the sun.

Many foundations have at least SPF 15, which is very beneficial to the user. Some even have anti-aging ingredients and moisturizers. For light dewy coverage, I like Clarins liquid foundation, which always gets me compliments about my skin. I have some friends who use MAC's full-coverage foundation and it hides all their blemishes. Sheer Cashmere is also a favorite of mine, and Maybelline's foundation is likewise good for light everyday use.

The best way to pick the right shade is to try to test the color on your jaw line. If it disappears, then that's the right shade for you.

Concealer. Dark under-eye circles and the occasional zit would be gone if you have a good concealer. When I have a long night, I pat on concealer on my dark circles and I immediately look well-rested.

I sometimes brush powder over it to set the concealer, and I'm good to go. Cinema Secrets is one of my favorite brands. I get mine at Landmark and I love it since it spreads on easily and does not thicken. Most of the professional makeup artists I work with also use this brand. It comes in a pot and takes forever to finish.

Powder. It is excellent in holding foundation and concealer in place, plus it gives your skin a flawless lustrous finish. It is also a foolproof way to take out the shine in your face. Since I have light skintone, I like to use T. Le Clerc's pressed powder. But when I have a tan, I switch to Guerlain bronzing powder. It is good to have at least two shades to pick from since our color changes depending on our sun exposure.

Blush. Peach-colored blush is the most user-friendly color. You get a nice fresh-from-the-gym glow. Blush will also make your skin look healthier. Check out Fanny Serrano's palette. I like the colors available, and I don't feel guilty when I buy some because it is not costly.

Translucent powder. For the final touch, add some shimmer to your face. Translucent powders give you that extra glow. For light-skinned girls, illuminators would be an excellent pick, while *morenas* should opt for the bronzing line.

Mestiza, chinita or *morena*, there is one rule that is beneficial to all. Without beautiful skin, you have lost half the battle. And now that you have all the tools to enhance your skin, you have no excuse not to look presentable.

E-mail the author at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DCS ALVAREZ
HAIR AND MAKEUP
BY FERDIE ORIVIDA OF UBER SALON
MODELS
ROSSEL VELASCO, DIANA MENDOZA,
CHRISTINE FINDLEY
STYLING BY RIA FRANCISCO-PRIETO

MAGNETIC *morena*

ALLURING *mestiza*

ORIENTAL beauty

How to conceal redness or blotches

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan
Contributor

PEOPLE WITH LIGHT COMPLEXION usually have problems with redness or blotches on their faces. Since the skin is very fair, any discoloration is immediately noticeable. Because of that, some develop inferiority complex. Others try to hide it with makeup. Unfortunately, due to lack of knowledge when it comes to products and colors, instead of camouflaging them, the blotches becomes even more prominent.

Acne, rashes or even freckles can easily be covered if you just know what and how to use the products that are available in the market. The key here is to find the right color and match it with your skintone. You also don't want your face to look so made up or chalk-white. When it comes to foundation, one shade lighter is ideal, especially if your complexion is oily. And don't forget to also apply the foundation on your neck. You wouldn't want to have that "floating head" look.

1. With our model, who has light- to medium-tone skin, covering the redness and pimples calls for a light-yellow olive concealer cream. Remember that when covering redness, olive and green cancels out the red so choose a foundation or concealer with these undertones.

2. Using a concealer brush, apply the concealer or base over any area with redness. For smaller areas, use a smaller-tipped brush. The smaller-tipped brush will also cover small red blemishes caused by acne. If you don't have it, you can also use your fingers, but remember to wash your hands first to sanitize it. You wouldn't want to spread the bacteria to other parts of your face. Just dab the makeup on the area to be covered. Do not rub it. Just tap-tap-tap till it is covered.

3. Using a wedge sponge, blend out the edges with a thin coat of liquid foundation. This will even out the complexion and make the rest of the face look made up.

If you have good skin maybe foundation is not necessary anymore. Just use the excess of the foundation from the sponge to even out the rest of the face. If you are using cream foundation, don't forget to use loose powder to set the cream foundation. This will also prevent the shades from running into each other and turning your face into a muddy grayish look.

Always remember that the end goal when applying makeup to the face is to make the color tones of the face match your neck. The key is to make your face and makeup look fresh and smooth.

E-mail author at bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com

AFTER

BEFORE

New beauty tricks

THERE ARE NEW COLORS AND COMBINAtions to try from Beauty Touch of Sara Lee Direct Selling, one of the country's leading direct selling companies.

Below are simple tips for mixing and matching makeup colors to create different looks for a more fabulous you.

For daytime, go for light, pastel shades that create a cool, fresh aura. Beauty Touch features a wide array of exciting hues: Pink Ice, Plum Babe, Mocha Galore, Raspberry Buff, Caramel Karma, Coral Punch and Honey Rush to color the lips; and Green Haze, Pink Champagne, Toffee Glow and Blue Heaven to liven up those lovely eyes.

Use bold, bright colors for a dramatic effect. Deeper, darker shades such as Night Velvet, Denim Mood, Purple Pop create the best effect in the evening. Smoky Rose and other strong eyeshadow shades will do it for your eyes while Burgundy Vixen, Raspberry Fling, Nectarine Twist, Marvelous Pink, Magenta Mania and other deep colors will create magic for the lips.

But who says you can't wear drama during the day? Try the look even if you're not attending the most formal party and make some heads turn.

Should it matter that you look exactly your age? Or shouldn't you simply look great no matter what your age is? You can easily do this with some lipstick tricks.

Try different finishes! Twentysomethings can glow with Beauty Touch Veil and Moist lipstick finishes. Those in their 30s have the Shine finish, while those in their 40s can try the sensual texture of Matte finishes, and 50somethings can go for the look of luxury of Cream lipstick.

Want an instant new look? Just gloss! Beauty Touch's Lip Glaze is a liquid lip gloss and a one-stop beauty booster. There are four Lip Glaze colors to choose from: Gleam of Nectar, Petal Sheen, Berry Crystal and Shiny Plum.

More trendy makeup shades are available in Beauty Touch's extensive palette which offers more than 500 gorgeous makeup combinations.

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The Chainmarts
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567g P162.50/pk

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Purefoods
Beefies Longganisa [illegible] P117.75

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Bibbo Cheesedog Regular P148.00
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Crab & Corn P35.25
Nido Oriental Soup P29.95

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454g P22.00/pk

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1.8lit P165.00/bot

Mazola
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1.42lit P178.50/bot
1.89lit P257.50/jug

Atis
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P19.00

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Libby's
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680g P79.50/bot
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Honey, Sweet 'n Zesty
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French's
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Fried Potatoes
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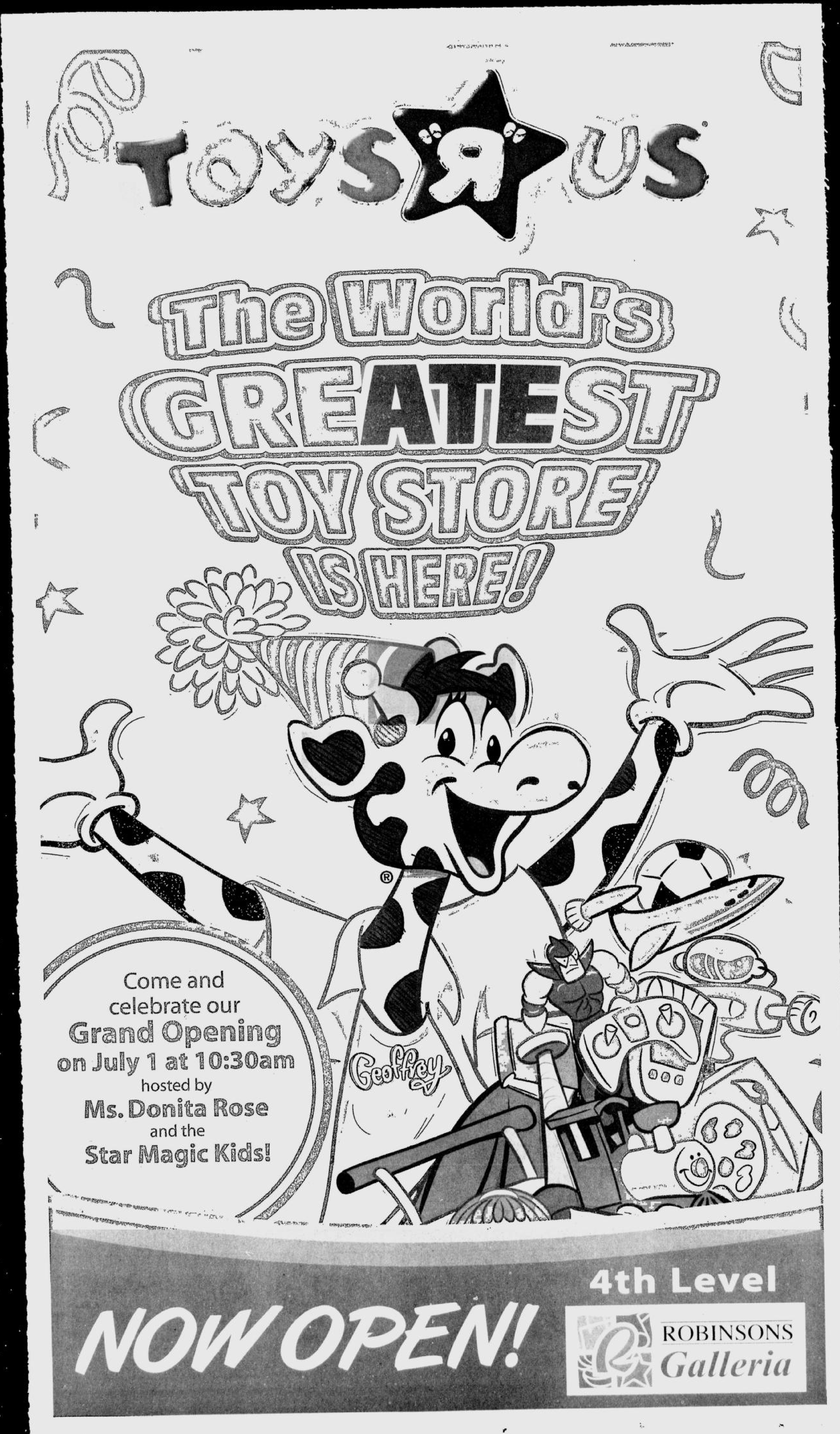

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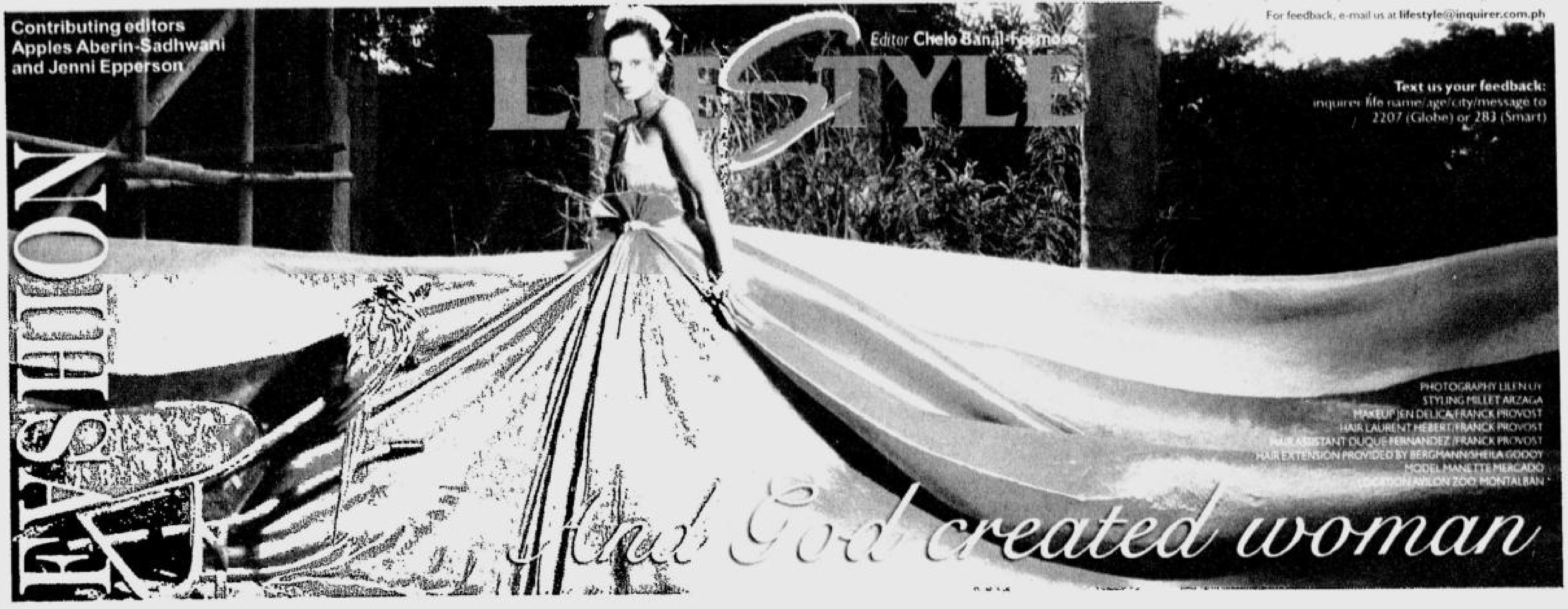

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FASHION

And God created woman

PHOTOGRAPHY LILEN UY
STYLING MILLET ARZAGA
MAKEUP JEN DELICA/FRANCK PROVOST
HAIR LAURENT HEBERT/FRANCK PROVOST
HAIR ASSISTANT DUQUE FERNANDEZ/FRANCK PROVOST
HAIR EXTENSION PROVIDED BY BERGHANN/SHEILA GODOY
MODEL MANETTE MERCADO
LOCATION AVILON ZOO MONTALBAN

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And God created woman...

RED plume corset with red ball-gown skirt and accessories. All by Frederick Peralta (0917-8455117)

PHOTOGRAPHY LILEN UY
STYLING MILLET ARZAGA
MAKEUP JEN DELICA/FRANCK PROVOST (8953401)
HAIR LAURENT HEBERT/FRANCK PROVOST (8953401)
HAIR ASSISTANT DUQUE FERNANDEZ/FRANCK PROVOST
HAIR EXTENSION PROVIDED BY BERGMANN/SHEILA GODOY (0917-4306272)
MODEL MANETTE MERCADO
LOCATION AVILON ZOO, MONTALBAN

By Alex Y. Vergara

A BODY-HUGGING, HOURglass-shaped dress with a plunging neckline or a series of calculated cutouts never fails to command attention. So is a sheer, backless gown that comes with strategic beadwork and a thigh-high slit.

Not a few fashion designers resort to these tried-and-tested ways to enhance a client's figure and celebrate her femininity. After all, showing a bit of skin has always been in.

But woman, beware! There's a thin line that separates a so-called sexy sheath from a vulgar-looking outfit, and well-meaning designers have taken pains to remind even the most daring dressers never to cross this line.

Dressing up within acceptable limits without looking like a character from Victorian England is possible, as six of the featured designers in this photo shoot have shown.

With Avilon Zoo in Montalban, Rizal, as our venue, INQUIRER Fashion pays tribute to the female form as she lords it over God's other creatures, in gowns and long dresses that are either close to the body or show ample skin.

Just what makes an outfit sexy is still a matter of debate. A number of designers attribute such an elusive quality to the wearer and how she moves in a particular dress.

"It's the person who wears the dress that makes it sexy," says Cesar Gaupo. "It should seldom be the reverse."

Ito Curata echoes Gaupo's view: "The woman wearing it should possess loads of attitude and confidence. Some women I know, for instance, can look quite sexy even in a simple black dress."

Eddie Baddeo and Larry Espinosa view it differently. Without underestimating the wearer's importance, the two put more emphasis on the right dress and its ability to complement its owner. Baddeo, for instance, believes in "proper execution, fitting and style."

"A gown is sexy when it enhances the wearer's physical attributes, while bestowing upon her the confidence to wear it," says Espinosa.

Frederick Peralta may be a leading purveyor of the "skin is in" brand of fashion, but surprisingly he frowns on "overexposure."

"Showing your private parts is never sexy. Apart from being immoral, it's in poor taste," he says. "A woman who tries too hard can never make a sexy outfit work for her."

Espinosa, who's also known for his figure-flattering creations that appeal to quite a number of Tinseltown's leading ladies, also has a mouthful to say on the subject.

"Sexy becomes vulgar when there's an obvious attempt on the woman's part to display too much," he says. "It's also vulgar when the design and the styling are developed to simply grab attention."

Blind fashion

Rather than be a slave to trends, adds Gaupo, a woman should wear something that suits her personality. A sexy trend becomes vulgar when she blindly follows what fashion dictates.

Curata, on the other hand, puts premium on a woman's attitude. A sexy dress will only work if the woman wearing it believes she's sexy.

"Her self-assurance," says Curata, "will send the right message to people around her."

Of course, adds Baddeo, there's also such a thing as "wrong projection." It seems even a woman wrapped from head to toe in a constricting *burkha* would still look vulgar if she acts and moves that way.

Most of the designers agree on one thing: there are no hard and fast rules when it comes to dressing sexy. No matter how revealing or body-hugging her outfit is, says Espinosa, a woman should put emphasis on fit and see to it that it allows her to move naturally.

"It's quite difficult to come up with a list of tips, as not all women have the same figure, height or weight," Curata adds. "Fit and well-proportioned women, however, should have no difficulty wearing a fitted dress or gown."

Apart from putting importance on fit, Baddeo advises the client to pair the outfit with the right shoes and accessories. "She should also consider where she intends to wear it and at what time of the day," he says.

But can the modern-day Eve still manage to look attractive without resorting to revealing and body-hugging numbers? Totally, definitely, absolutely!

"Being sexy is a personal trait," says Espinosa. "It's reflected in the way a woman carries and expresses her sensuality even through the smallest gestures."

If clothes make a man, they simply enhance whatever innate qualities already exist within a woman.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

> Beware! There's a thin line that separates a so-called sexy sheath from a vulgar-looking outfit

CANARY-YELLOW multilayered georgette long gown accented with a geometrical loop by Ito Curata (0917-8584535)

BABY-PINK duchess satin gown with flower accent by Dennis Lustico (0926-7560494), black low boots from Confetti

WHITE crumpled silk body-fit top and quilted silk-gazar ball-gown skirt with airbrushed paint by Eddie Baddeo (0917-5282758) and Rommel Toledo; earrings from Marion Godart; silver chain-mail necklace of Swarovski crystal components, used as bracelet

TIERED white silk-chiffon dress by Cesar Gaupo (0916-4261041); brown neckpiece of Swarovski crystal components

ON THE COVER. Electric-pleated silk-tafetta gown in copper-orange, mustard-yellow and bronze, with multilayered petticoat and white silver crystal accents by Larry Espinosa (0918-9281909); headdress by Raye Encarnacion (0916-6733000); white bead bracelet of Swarovski crystal components

---

Designing model

From page F4

something that will flatter a woman and complement her personality. I also have my own interpretation of classicism, which is not dictated by conventional standards."

Crafstman

His outlook is apparent in his designs, which are never trend-driven. And his play on proportion, balance and rhythm is always interesting, not run-of-the-mill. Nevertheless, he always makes an effort to keep the basic elements, like a good lapel or jacket lining, well-made.

"I'd like to think of myself as a craftsman, as I rely on basic concepts, fabrication, silhouettes and a partiality to pattern-making when creating a piece," he says.

These qualities have undeniably helped him achieve a certain amount of success in such a competitive field. Unknown to many, Jan went on to represent the US in various design competitions around the world. In 1994, he was the overall winner in the Switzerland Young Designers Competition, which was judged by no less than Herve Leger, Ted Lapidus and Christian Lacroix.

Also in 1994, he garnered the Hispanic Designer of the Year Award, which is probably a first considering Jan is a pure-bred Pinoy. In 1998, he won the Vidal Sassoon Fashion Award in New York, and in 2002, he was a finalist in the Young Designers Competition in Korea.

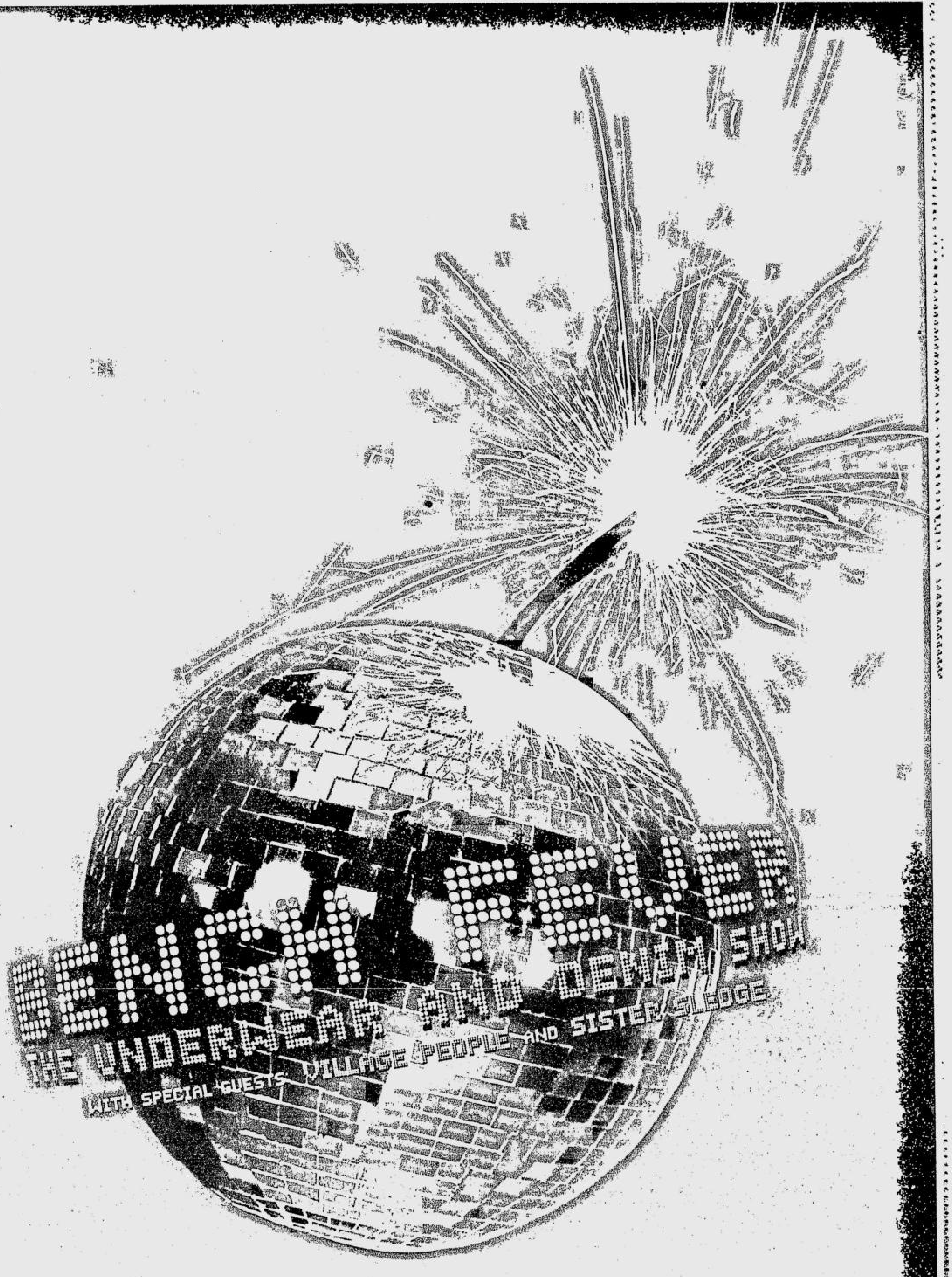
His list of achievements does not end with all these awards. From 1996-1999, Jan also showed his collections twice a year at 7th on 6th Fashion Week in New York. He was able to sell to Saks Fifth Avenue (where his creations were hung side by side with those of Carolina Herrera and Oscar dela Renta) and Jacobson. What's more, stars like Goldie Hawn, Sally Fields and opera singer Kathleen Battle have worn his creations.

Jan's showroom was previously located in New York while production was done in LA. But at present, Jan has scaled down operations. He is now concentrating on more lucrative designer weddings for private clients, in cooperation with a Las Vegas-based wedding planner.

So, what's next for this talented, far-from-archetypal ex-model/designer? Can we expect more besides his international accolades?

Hold your breath because something is definitely brewing. Although Jan is back in LA for now, he will soon return to Manila to explore some very promising prospects.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph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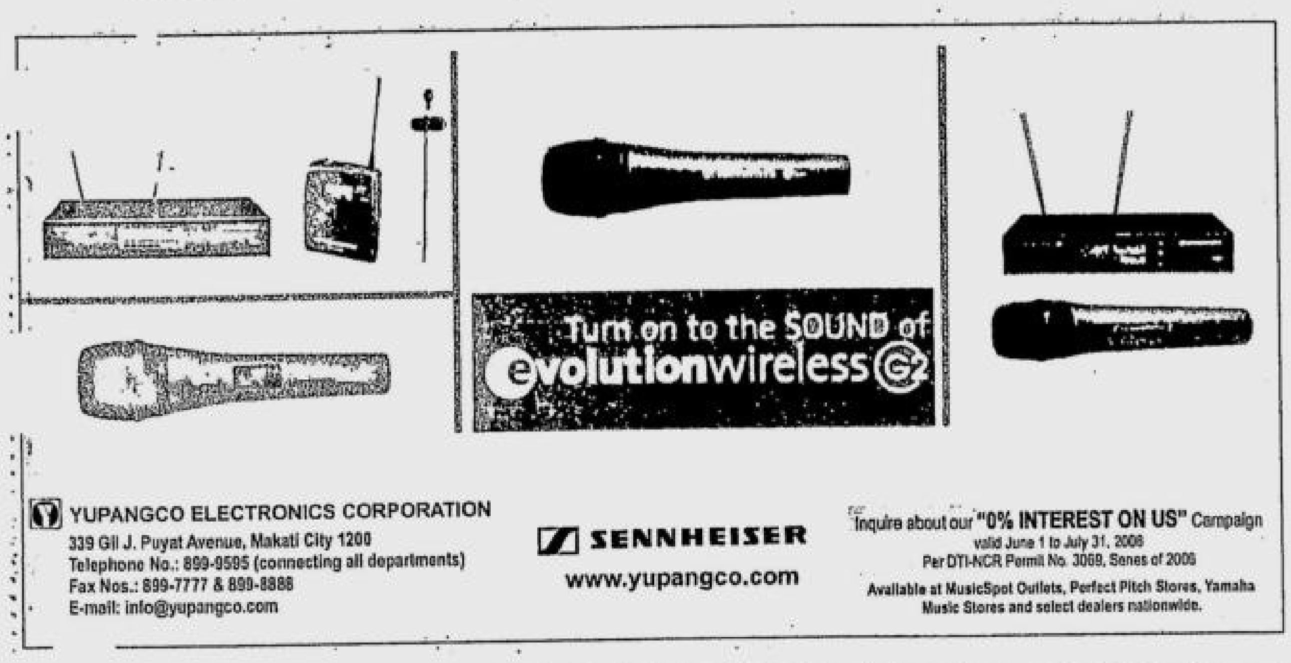
Designing model

Once one of Manila's top male mannequins, Antonio Garcia has forged a successful career as a fashion designer in the US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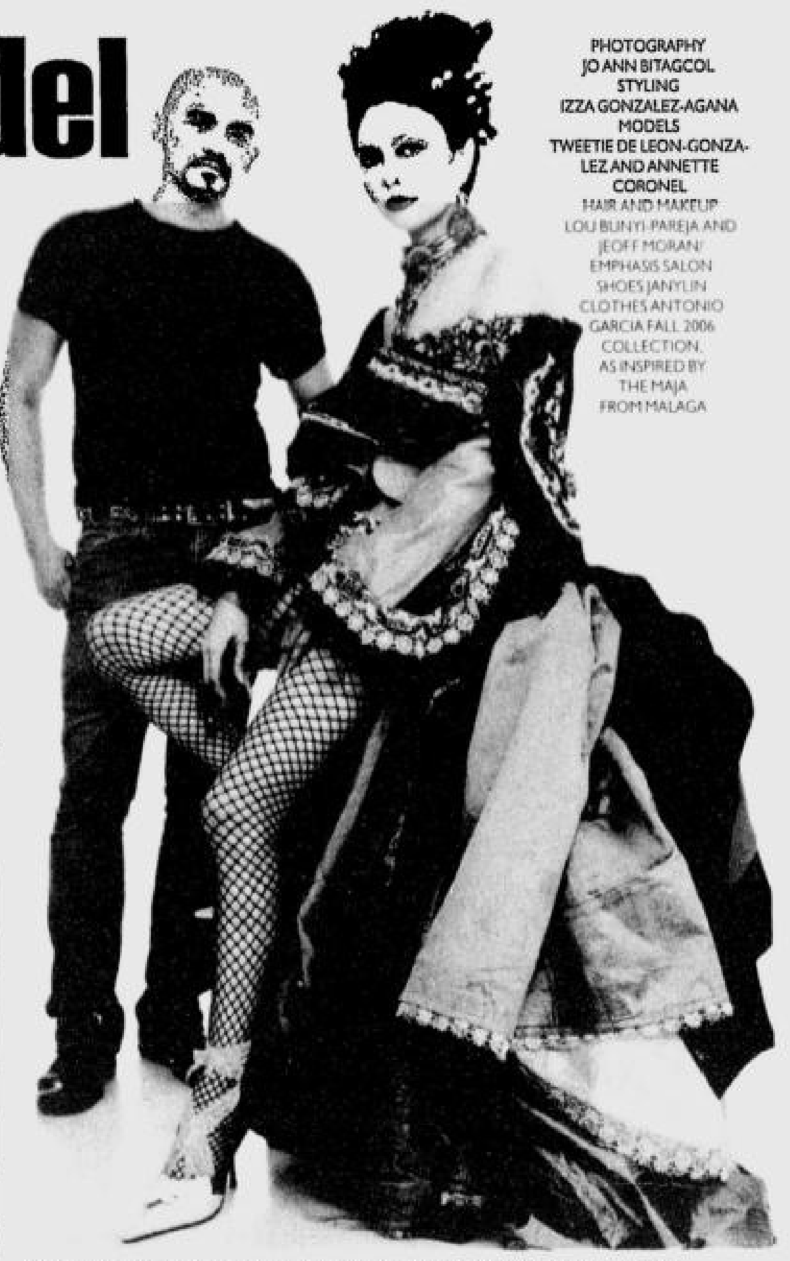


PHOTOGRAPHY
JO ANN BITAGCOL
STYLING
IZZA GONZALEZ-AGANA
MODELS
TWEETIE DE LEON-GONZALEZ AND ANNETTE CORONEL
HAIR AND MAKEUP
LOU BUNYI-PAREJA AND JEOFF MORAN/ EMPHASIS SALON
SHOES JANYLIN
CLOTHES ANTONIO GARCIA FALL 2006 COLLECTION, AS INSPIRED BY THE MAJA FROM MALAGA

ANTONIO Garcia and his trademark come-hither stare with Annette, who is wearing a portrait-collar silk chartreuse and wool dupioni ensemble with floral embroidery and borders of pheasant feathers under a film of black tulle.

AFTER 15 LONG years in the US, Antonio Garcia, or Jan to his close friends, has returned to Manila to reestablish his roots and make his presence felt in the local fashion scene.

Some may remember him as a suave model who knew how to wow the crowd with a swirl of a jacket, flip of a tie or an intense stare. Others remember him as someone who looked like a mysterious Italian lothario. But ask him, and he's quick to say he was but a mere "version of Clark Gable who fell flat on his face."

His self-deprecating sense of humor was and still is endearing and a testament to his sense of security.

He was, in fact, one of Manila's top male models. He started modeling in 1982 when designer Rene Ann Gomez spotted him during a shopping jaunt in Divisoria. In 1986, together with Manila's most sought-after mannequins, he founded PMAP (The Professional Models Association of the Philippines) and set the bar for generations of models to come. In 1987, he also won the Best Ramp Model award during the first-ever Bodyshots competition.

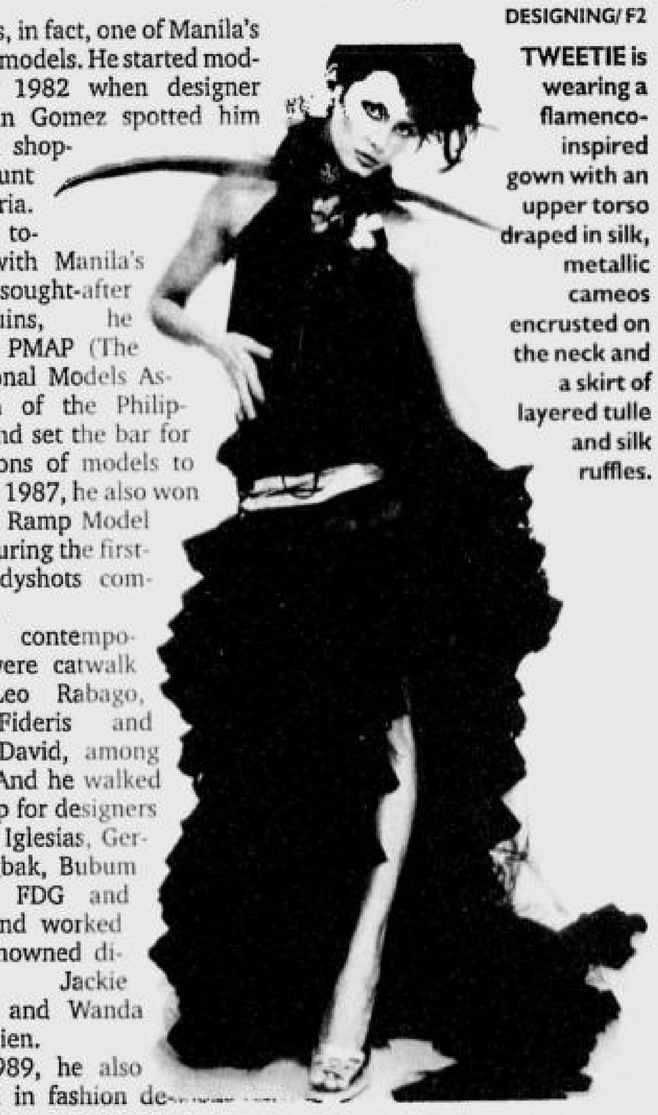
His contemporaries were catwalk icons Leo Rabago, Ping Fideris and Robert David, among others. And he walked the ramp for designers Marden Iglesias, Gerry Katigbak, Bubum Melgar, FDG and FDAP and worked with renowned directors Jackie Aquino, and Wanda Louwallien.

In 1989, he also dabbled in fashion design. His mother Rosa Garcia was also a designer and a member of the FDAP, so design was a natural progression for Jan. Unfortunately, he had to move to LA to join the rest of his family before his career as a designer in Manila could even begin to blossom.

In the US, he decided to seriously pursue a career in fashion design. To hone his craft, he studied at the Fashion Institute in LA. Designer Pepito Albert, who also graduated from the same school, provided a recommendation letter. No less than world-renowned Monique Lhuillier was also a batch below him in the institute.

Asked what design philosophy he subscribes to, Jan says, "I don't have pretensions of looking at design from a strict design perspective. I always think of my work as

DESIGNING/ F2



TWEETIE is wearing a flamenco-inspired gown with an upper torso draped in silk, metallic cameos encrusted on the neck and a skirt of layered tulle and silk ruffles.

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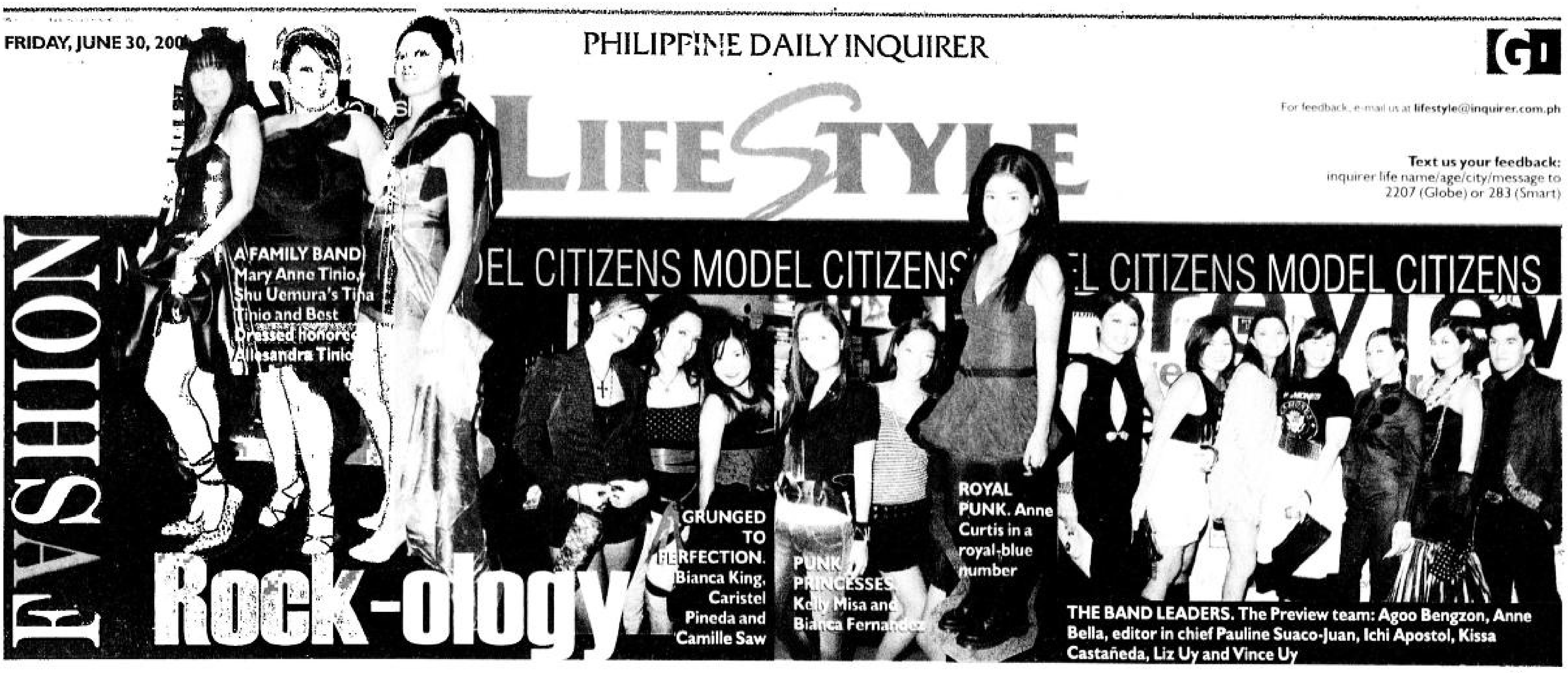

MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS

A FAMILY BAND. Mary Anne Tinio, Shu Uemura's Tina Tinio and Best Dressed honoree Allesandra Tinio

GRUNGED TO PERFECTION. Bianca King, Caristel Pineda and Camille Saw

PUNK PRINCESSES. Kelly Misa and Bianca Fernandez

ROYAL PUNK. Anne Curtis in a royal-blue number

THE BAND LEADERS. The Preview team: Agoo Bengzon, Anne Bella, editor in chief Pauline Suaco-Juan, Ichi Apostol, Kissa Castañeda, Liz Uy and Vince Uy

Rock-ology

By Katrina Cruz
Photos by Willy Saw

CELEBRATING ITS 11TH anniversary, the Philippine's style bible, Preview Magazine, rocked the Saturday night scene when it recently paid tribute to Manila's 10 Best Dressed for 2006.

From a range of blacks to whites, silver chains to gold strings, style stars hit the top of the charts with a bang. Fashion divas stood tall and proud as the S/S 2006 rock chic trend took center stage: leggings, tights, knee-high boots and tight-as-tights pants (aka the "it" girl peg-leg jeans), all glammed up with shiny steel and blinding blings.

Living large was the couture crowd in elaborate and intricate pieces by their favorite local designers. And not to be outdone by the mod mob, glamour girls toughened up their sweet, sophisticated act with a bit of hardware and a touch of masculinity via military jackets, vests, narrow neckties and big buckled belts.

Even the men spoke of style by revving it up with statement tees paired with motorcycle jackets. But beyond the heavy metal and the hard rocks of fashion, the best accessories for the night were the books the guests carried with them to donate to RockEd's "No More Excuses, Philippines" campaign, which was launched on the same night.

Now, that's how to play the part of a model citizen.

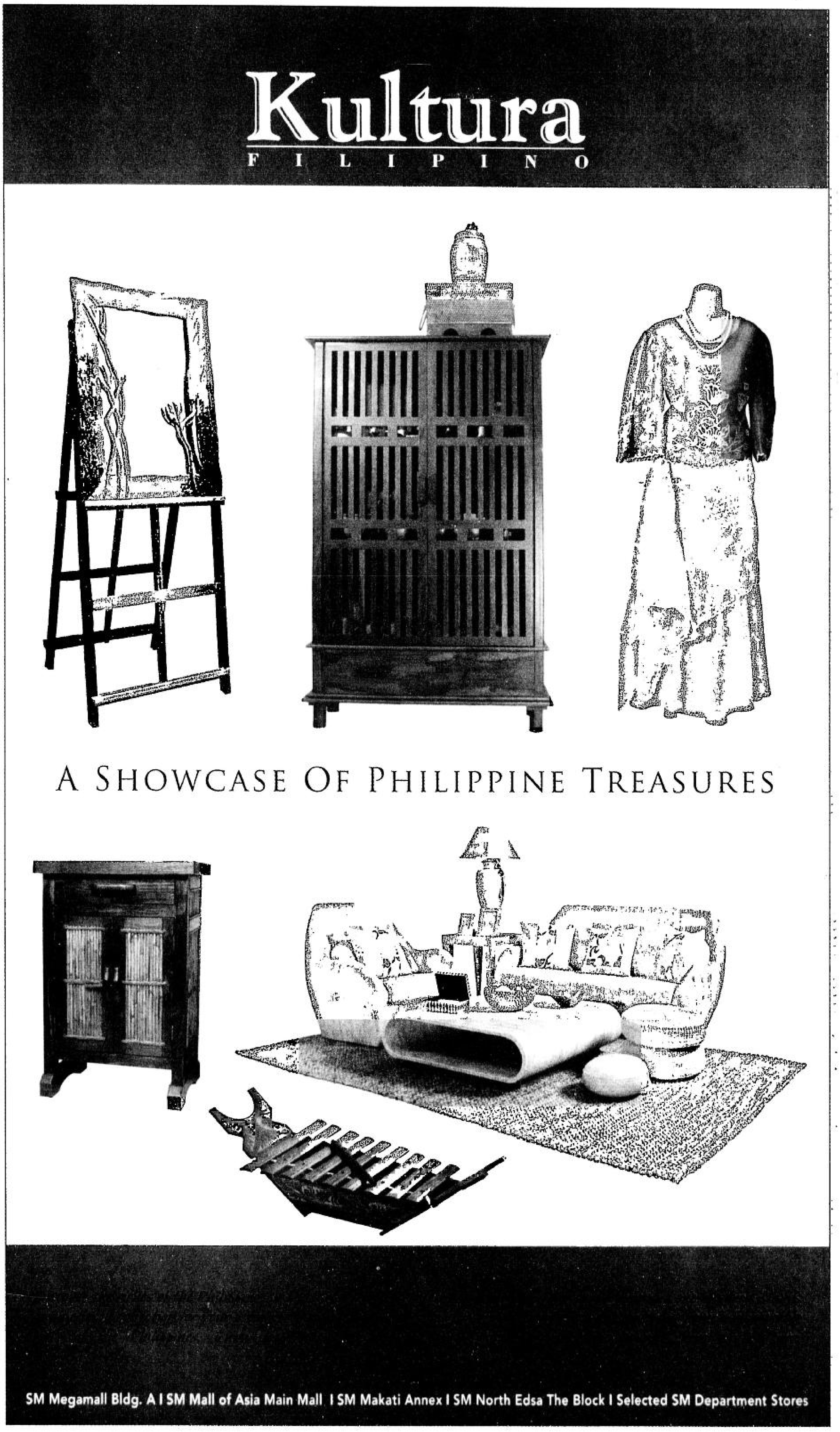
"No More Excuses, Philippines" is a campaign by RockEd Philippines that aims to alleviate poverty by rocking society through education and educating the youth through rock culture. Also supporting RockEd are party sponsors Topshop, Canon, Dior eyewear, Shu Uemura and Motorola .

VIRGIN PUNK. Best Dressed awardee Charmaine Palermo (right) in a Madonna-inspired frock by Ignacio Loyola with Pauline

PEARLS JAM. Preview associate fashion editor Liz Uy with beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez

ROCK DIVAS. Designer Mich Dulce and Ciara Sotto

TOTALLY WAISTED. Maybelline makeup artist Barbie Chan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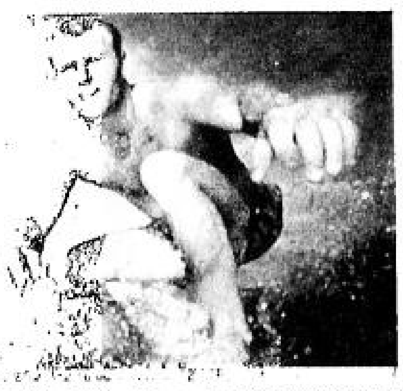
Extreme Sports

A bit more excitement from the usual



CABLED water sports facility opens at Cam Sur

Text and photos by Joel V. Nigos

PILI, CAMARINES SUR — EXTREME WATER sports enthusiasts no longer have to look far to enjoy their sport.

With the opening of the Camarines Sur Watersports Complex recently, the first world-class sports facility of its kind in the country today, Filipino water skiers and wakeboarders alike now have a place to train in their sport. They would also soon be exposed to world-class competitions.

Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Ray Villafuerte, who led the opening of the park, said that he "hopes the park would generate interest among locals as well as foreigners in the extreme water sport." It is also the province's way, he said, to promote Camarines Sur as a sports tourism destination. "Besides the complex, our province and the whole Bicol Region prides itself with some of the country's best attractions. We have pristine white sand beaches here, exotic animals, old churches, mountains to climb, and the hottest food which Bicol is known for."

The Camarines Sur Watersports Complex boasts of a six-point cable ski system from Germany in a 4.5-hectare lake. Tailored for wake boarding, wake skiing, water skiing and knee boarding, the park aims to attract enthusiasts from all over the world. It is located at the Provincial Capitol Complex in Cadlan, Pili, Camarines Sur.

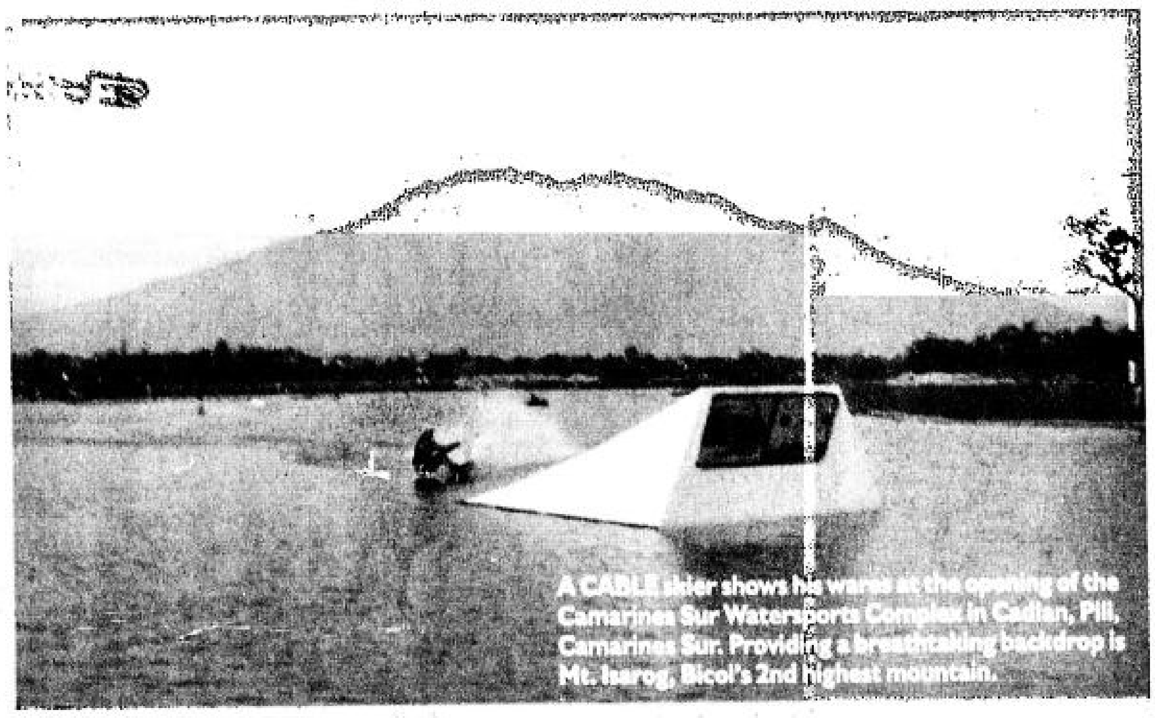
The park is ideal for professional wake boarders and water skiers as well as for beginner riders. It is equipped with spotlights which allows it to be open even during the evening. A grandstand was constructed to hold guests. Soon to rise within the facility are restaurants, sand bars, spas and professional shops.

The opening of the watersports complex coincided with the Kaogma Festival in celebration of the province's 427th foundation day. Kuno Ritschard, president of the International Waterski Federation and Hans Otte, chair of the World Cable Wakeboard Commission, were present to attend the event.

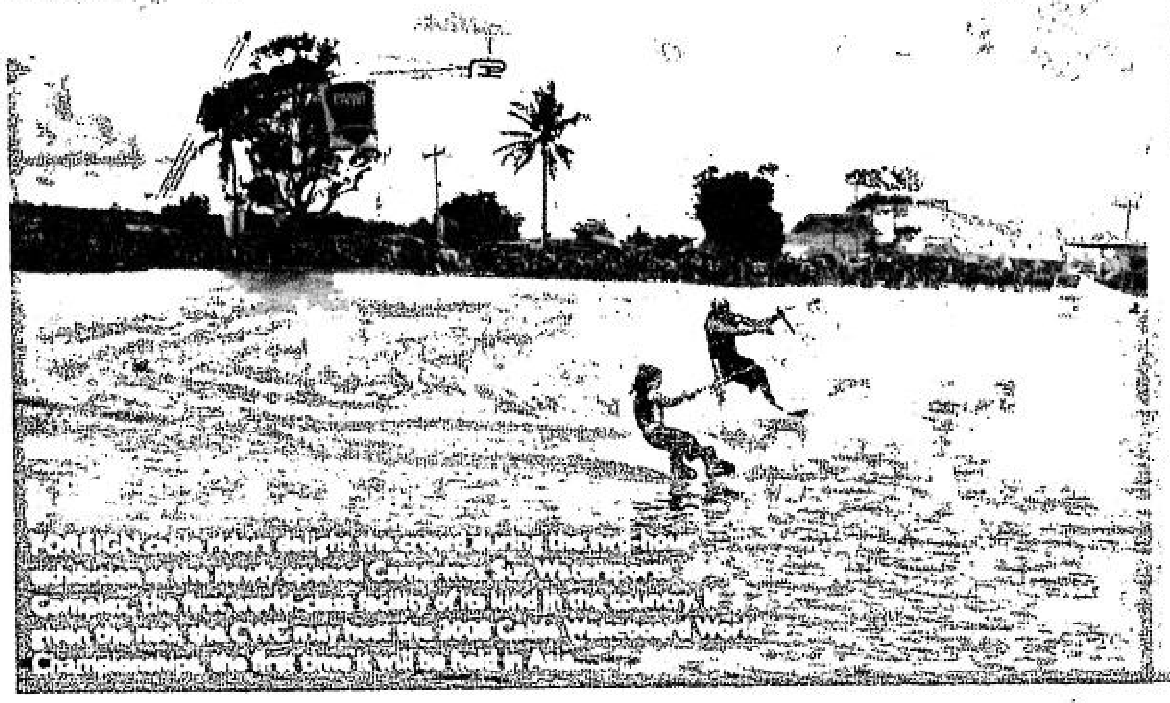
Some of the world's finest water skiers and wake boarders also graced the opening of the complex. They delighted the crowd with an exhibition. Participants included world's No. 1 junior skier Sam Collins of Australia, second-ranked Peter Pascal Schmidt of Australia, Open women's No. 1 Eva Koch of Germany, No. 3 ranked junior Heather Johnson of the United States, and Austria's Daniel Fetz, ranked No. 9 in the world in the Open men's class. Other riders were from the United States, Australia, Hungary, Austria, Japan, Indonesia, Germany, Thailand, and the Philippines who displayed their wares in a two-hour run.

The CWC, through the Philippine Water Ski and Wakeboard Foundation, is currently bidding to host the 2008 Cable Wakeboard World Championships. Previous competitions were all held in Europe.

The watersports complex provides a breathtaking view of Mt. Isarog, which at 1,966 meters above sea level is the 2nd highest mountain in the Bicol Region. And because the Philippines enjoys good weather 10 months a year (unlike in Europe and the States) which makes it ideal for cable skiing, the facility hopes to attract international cable skiers from all over the world and to be the mecca of wakeboarding and water skiing in Southeast Asia.



A CABLE skier shows his wares at the opening of the Camarines Sur Watersports Complex in Cadlan, Pili, Camarines Sur. Providing a breathtaking backdrop is Mt. Isarog, Bicol's 2nd highest mountain.



[illegible]

Ride on! MTB/Roadie events

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7 a.m. to 7 p.m
La Mesa Eco Park Forest Reserve
For More information:
Email: rudygirlchallenge@yahoo.com
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Over P100,000 worth of prizes
Top prizes will be Haro BMX Bike and Haro MTB Bike for the MTB 4x.
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Extreme water sports that can be played at CWC

Cable Skiing [illegible] simply water skiing where the skier is pulled by an overhead cable suspended eight to 12 meters above water surface by specifically designed pylons. The cables run counter clockwise around the lake. It is powered by variable speed electric motor which can maintain speed between 20 to 65 mph.

All skiers begin from the starting dock and make an easy transition onto the water. Cable skiing is safe, clean, quiet and environmentally friendly. The major advantage of cable skiing is that there is no need for a motor boat. This makes it very affordable and practical for an average Joe.

Wakeboarding [illegible] one of the world's fastest growing extreme water sports. It has become a lifestyle [illegible] as well. The number of wakeboarders across the world has increased over the past few years. The sport is slowly being recognized globally. Today, cable is the more accessible and practical way to wakeboard because it does not require the need of a motor boat.

Wake skating [illegible] an adaptation of wakeboarding that employs a similar design of board.

Kneeboarding [illegible] riding on an extra-wide shaped [illegible] while in the kneeling position and being pulled by the cable.

Water skiing [illegible] gliding on water while being pulled by the cable [illegible]

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-July 1
- 15 teams, each team composed of 5 stationary drinkers and 3 racers
- base camp is Gillie's Island QC, there will be 14 satellite bars in which stunts will be performed

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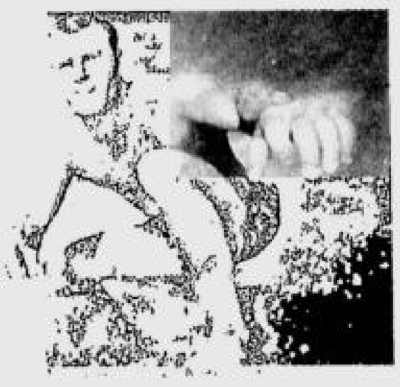
Extreme Sports



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[illegible] Camarines Sur Watersports [illegible]

[illegible]

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Extreme defined on land, water, air

EXTREME SPORT (ALSO CALLED ACtion sport, adventure sport, and adventurous sport) is a general term for sports featuring speed, height, danger, a high level of physical exertion, highly specialized gear, or spectacular stunts. A feature of such activities in the view of some is their alleged capacity to induce a so-called adrenaline rush in participants (a misnomer, since often the rush or high obtained is a product of increased levels of dopamine endorphins and serotonin). Another characteristic of activities so labeled is they tend to be individual rather than team sports. Extreme sports can include both competitive and non-competitive activities.

Extreme sports are often associated with young adults wishing to push themselves to the limits of their physical ability and fear, in turn pushing the boundaries of a particular sport. This youthful demographic accounts too for extreme sports' frequent association with youth culture, including its clothing, fashions, and music.

Some contend that the distinction between an extreme sport and a conventional one is as much to do with marketing as it is to do with perceptions about levels of danger involved or the amount of adrenaline generated. Snowboarding, thus, has a more extreme image than skiing due to differing marketing strategies and the fact of being a newer sport, even though skiing is a faster and at least equally dangerous activity. Furthermore a sport like Rugby Union, though dangerous and adrenaline-inducing, would not fall into the category of extreme sports due to its traditional image. Scuba diving is not often categorized as an extreme sport these days, despite the level of danger and physical exertion, because of its primarily adult demographic. Another example: compare the perception of demolition derby, not usually thought of as an extreme sport, to that of BMX racing, which is. Demolition derby has an adult demographic, BMX is a youth sport.

The definition of extreme sports may have shifted over the years due to marketing trends. When the term first surfaced circa the late 1980s/early 1990s, it was used for adult sports such as skydiving, scuba diving, surfing, rock climbing, mountaineering, storm chasing, hang gliding, and bungee jumping, many of which were undergoing an unprecedented growth in popularity at the time. Outside magazine epitomized the meaning of the term, and if there was a clothing style associated with extreme sports it was an "ourdoorsy" look favoring brand names associated with mountaineering or backpacking such as The North Face and Patagonia, Teva sandals or hiking boots for footwear, etc. The term nowadays applies more to youth sports like skateboarding, snowboarding, and BMX and is closely associated with marketing efforts aimed at youth (e.g. the ad campaigns of Mountain Dew), and with their favored styles of clothing and music, especially the kind of urban baggy look associated with skateboarders, and loud, fast alternative rock. This shift in styles may also be partly a generational shift, as Baby Boomers and Generation X have aged and marketing[1] efforts associated with extreme sports shifted toward the younger Generation Y demographic sometime in the mid to late 1990s.

The term gained popularity with the advent of the "X Games", a made-for-television collection of events. Advertisers were quick to recognize the appeal of the event to the public, as a consequence competitors and organizers are not wanting for sponsorship these days. The high profile of extreme sports and the culture surrounding them has also led people to invent parodies, such as "Extreme Ironing", urban housework, extreme croquet, extreme unicycling, house gymnastics, and extreme wheelbarrow.

Here's a partial list of sports classified as extreme:

Aggressive skating; BASE jumping; BMX freestyle; bodyboarding; bouldering; buildering; bungee jumping; caving; cave diving; climbing; drag racing; extreme skiing; freebording; free-diving; ice climbing; whitewater kayaking; kitesurfing; kiteboarding; kneeboarding; mountain biking; mountain boarding; mountaineering; noodling; paintball; paragliding; paramotoring; Parkour; poweriser; whitewater rafting; rock climbing; roller derby; scuba diving; skateboarding; skiboarding; skydiving; skysurfing; slamball; snakeboarding; snowboarding; storm chasing; street luge; stunt pogo; surfing; tricking; unicycling; urban kayaking; wakeboarding; water skiing; windsports; windsurfing. *From wikipedia.com*

MANILA DRAGONS ROWING TEAM WINS IN CHINA

The Manila Dragons Dragonboat Rowing Team reaped 4 awards in two separate dragonboat races in two cities in China held on June 3 and 4. The MD men's team placed 1st runner up (International Category) and the women's team 5th runner up (Open Category) in the 12th Guangzhou International Dragonboat Invitational Tournament. And in the 1st Shaoguan City International Dragonboat Invitational Tournament the MDs won the 2nd runner-up (women's) and 3rd runner-up (men's) trophies. With team officials Iris Ocba and Jilla Decena, the Philippine delegates include: (Men's) Raul Bumanglag (drummer/team manager), Mike Manabat, Joel Macawile, Paul Minano, Greg Doronila, Marlon Ilagan, Marlon Coduco, Aboy de Guzman, Don Balolong, Darwin Ugalde, Dexter Macapagal, Roli Inocencio, Tomtom Ricamora, Jong Valientes, Eugene Nazaire, Ron Dolotina, Jun Orbina, Maikee Quincina, Ding Cailipan, Andy Torres, Gary Llanes, Richard Wong (steersman); (Women's) Mylene Buenafe (drummer), Duch Coduco, Poupe Celis, Tina Bocala, Sandy dos Remedios, Dang Gido, Love Jomen, Mylene Reyes, Imelda Diaz, Bernice Francisco, Jane Butchayo, Heidi Sarno, Jenny Maglian, Jhelyn Relopez, Liza Buencillo, Belie Barron, Melody Ocampo, Mya Pinpin, Jessie Cauilan, Che Nejal, Gina Marquez, Magz Amaguin, Pam Tababan and Val Pacardo (steerswoman).

Bring it on with I-ON

For the active young set, the day never ends at work. In fact, for these people, the day is just starting. Typical agenda: after work it's off to the gym, then dinner, then a night out that usually lasts past midnight. Repeat. If this sounds familiar to you, then chances are you're going to need some extra boost to keep it all up.
Enter I-ON. Probably the best thing that's ever happened to energy drinks, I-ON has Ionics, a unique mix of ginseng, royal jelly, iron and multivitamins that will boost you to the next energy level and help you stay there. All that in a fizzy, refreshing, citron-flavored drink. It's amazing what that boost can do. I-ON can help you climb that extra wall..Or stay two hours more at that underground rave. Or take 30 more calls at the call center. Or perform through overtime like it was just another day at the office. So the next time a potentially energy-thirsty challenge stares you in the face, don't back down. Bring It On. With I-ON.

Advt.

180mL
ENERGIZED with GINSENG ROYAL JELLY & IRON
REVICON
I-ON
Energy Drink
Bring It On. I-ON.
Formulated to boost you to the next energy level.

MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS

SCHOOL OF ROCK. Teaching them young. Rosanna Aranaz, Claudine Bacani, Hannah Choa Yu and Alexi Bautista get all glammed up for a cause.

FOREIGN ACTS. Tourists join the RockEd cause.

GOLD RECORD. INQUIRER Fashion's Jenni Epperson

NO GUNS, JUST ROSES. Donita Rose in rugged jeans paired with a slinky silver top

SHU STOPPERS. Shu Uemura's Tessa Dragon and Xeng Zulueta

PRETTY IN PUNK. Stacy Rodriguez strikes a pose.

PINOY ROCKS. Leica Carpo in Rajo Laurel

PURPLE REIGN. Alessandra Tinio with designer Mike Lavarez and Geoff Gonzales and Mong Alcaraz of Sandwich and Chicosci

Scientifically proven:

EUROPEAN STUDY SHOWS UP TO 3X MORE WEIGHT LOSS WITH XÄNDO

Xändo Block and Burn inventor Nils Mortensen and weight management researcher Dr. Erling Thom shared the results of Xändo's clinical study to an eager audience during the Xändo tablet launch held on May 19 at Crowne Plaza Galleria.

A clinical study published in the International Journal of Medical Research revealed that people using Xändo Block and Burn Tablets lost up to three times more weight than dieting alone.

The study entitled "A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-controlled Trial of a New Weight-reducing Agent of Natural Origin," published in 2000, showed the results of a clinical testing conducted by Dr. Erling Thom at PAREXEL Clinical Research, Lillestrom, Norway.

Dr. Thom, one of the leading European researchers in weight management with over 10 published academic papers on the subject, discussed the results of the clinical trial during the product launch held on May 19 at the Grand Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Galleria.

"We took a group of overweight people and divided them into two test groups. The groups were balanced in terms of weight and age to ensure they were comparable," Dr. Thom narrated. "Both groups were placed on a 1200Kcal diet. One was given Xändo Block and Burn Tablets and the other was given tablets with no active ingredients."

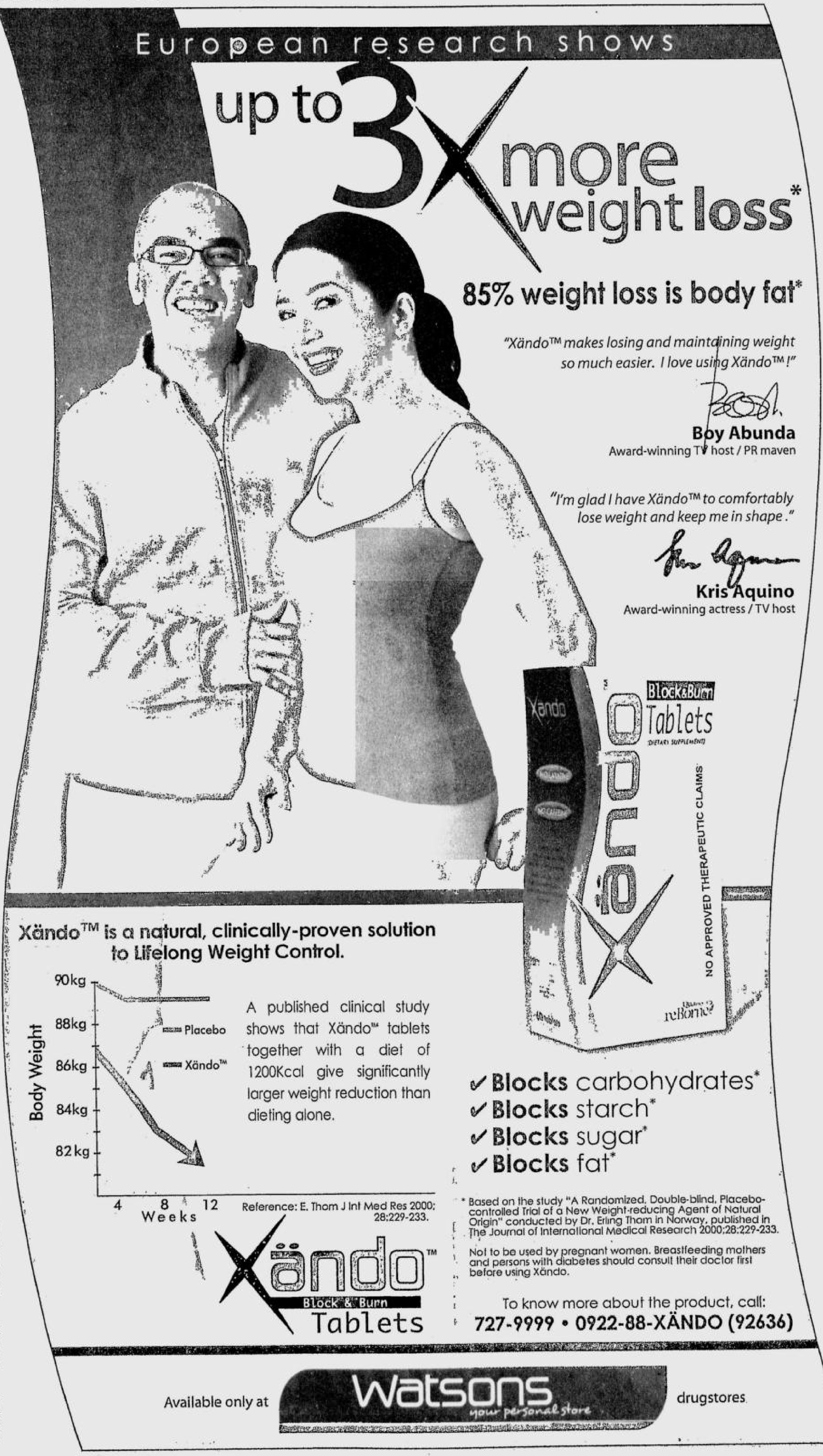
"The results showed the group on Xändo Block and Burn lost up to three times more weight than the other group. The placebo group lost an average of 1.2 kg while the group on Xändo Block and Burn lost 3.5 kg. We then looked at where the weight loss came from. It is important that healthy weight loss be predominantly from fat, not muscle tissue. For the group using Xändo Block and Burn Tablets, 85% of their weight loss was fat," announced Dr. Thom.

Aside from the positive results of the trial, Dr. Thom also had accolades for Xändo Block and Burn. "The beauty of using Xändo Block and Burn is that this weight management solution recognizes the power of natural human desire to eat and does not try to subvert, alter or deny this urge," declared Dr. Thom.

Instead, Xändo Block and Burn lets people lose weight comfortably by letting them eat the food that they love then blocking excess carbohydrates from food. Its three natural active ingredients—Phaseolamin (extract from kidney beans), Inulin (extract from chicory), and Garcinia—work three ways to help people trim down weight: it blocks calories from "big" carbohydrates such as pasta, bread and noodles; it blocks "small" carbs from foods such as pastries, cakes and chocolates; and it inhibits excess carbs from being converted into fat.

Xändo tablets inventor Mr. Nils Mortensen was pleased to hear the results of the study. "The reason I invented Xändo Tablet was to help people lose weight safely," he said.

Xändo Block and Burn is exclusively available at all Watsons outlets. For more information, please call the Xändo HealthLines 727-9999 and 0922-88-XÄNDO (92636).


Xändo
Block&Burn Tablets
DIETARY SUPPLEMENT
NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS
reBorne
Body Weight
90kg
88kg
86kg
84kg
82kg
Placebo
Xändo™
4
8
12
Weeks

European research shows

up to 3X more weight loss*

85% weight loss is body fat*

"Xändo™ makes losing and maintaining weight so much easier. I love using Xändo™!"

Boy Abunda
Award-winning TV host / PR maven

"I'm glad I have Xändo™ to comfortably lose weight and keep me in shape."

Kris Aquino
Award-winning actress / TV host

Xändo™ is a natural, clinically-proven solution to Lifelong Weight Control.

A published clinical study shows that Xändo™ tablets together with a diet of 1200Kcal give significantly larger weight reduction than dieting alone.

Reference: E. Thom J Int Med Res 2000; 28:229-233.

Xändo™
Block & Burn
Tablets

- ✓ **Blocks** carbohydrates*
- ✓ **Blocks** starch*
- ✓ **Blocks** sugar*
- ✓ **Blocks** fat*

* Based on the study "A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Trial of a New Weight-reducing Agent of Natural Origin" conducted by Dr. Erling Thom in Norway, published in The Journal of International Medical Research 2000;28:229-233.

Not to be used by pregnant women. Breastfeeding mothers and persons with diabetes should consult their doctor first before using Xändo.

To know more about the product, call:
727-9999 • 0922-88-XÄNDO (92636)

Available only at Watsons your personal store drugstores

SAVINGS: A 24/7 job

SO, YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO END your habitual splurging on your salary (the habit that makes you scrape the bottom of the barrel a few days before payday) and have vowed to save "a little a day", everyday, for the rest of your life.

But how do you start a new habit that is completely opposite to what you've grown accustomed to? Here are some tips that can probably help start you on your journey of savings.

First, you will need to assess your current financial position. How much can you realistically afford to save, and for how long? Do you have any loans that should be paid before committing money to a savings or investment scheme? What are your ultimate aims for the money that you set aside? How much return do you want for the money you save up, and what risks do you take for these returns?

Second, identify your short, medium, and long-term needs. Short term needs could span from a few months to a few years, i.e. this coming Christmas expenses, next semester's tuition for the kids, or a new car. Medium-term needs are fulfilled a bit longer, from five to 10 years. These needs could include that dream holiday, the new house, or the kids' college education expenses. Long-term needs take more than 10 years to plan out, and may include such important aspects such as your retirement, or your children's future.

Third, now that you've identified your term needs, consider now where to put your money in. Usually, for short-term needs, you save your money in a bank. There is a wide variety of deposit accounts and they have different degrees of access, different rates of interest and different minimum investment amounts. Deposit accounts generally have the following features: you can invest a lump sum or you can save in monthly or weekly installments; they offer a wide choice of investment terms from demand accounts, where

you can take your money out anytime you want, to 1 to 2-year term accounts. There's low capital risk involved here; and relatively low returns, particularly relative to inflation.

For medium-term needs, life assurance companies offer guaranteed bonds which provide either a guaranteed return of the investment amount at the end of the term, together with a guaranteed level of bonus; or a guaranteed level of income for the term of the bond, usually 5 years, together with a guaranteed return of the investment amount at the end of the term. Some of these products offer no access to your money if you need to cash in the bond before maturity, or may allow some access but charge a substantial penalty.

For long-term needs, property investments offer attractive returns. However, investing directly in property generally requires either large amounts of capital or borrowing. If you borrow heavily to invest in property you will be more vulnerable to the potential risks, particularly if your investment property is secured on your own home. Potential returns include rental income if investing directly, and capital growth if the value rises. The potential risks include no rental income if property is vacant; increase in mortgage repayments if interest rates rise, where the property is purchased using borrowings; or falling property values. Immediate access to your money may be difficult in a property investment.

Whether you're saving up for the short, medium or long term, the most important step, indeed, is that first amount saved on the first day. That starts the snowball rolling.

Metrobank Fun Savers Club:

Teaching kids to save the fun way

Parents often wonder when is the right time to teach children the basics of savings. Studies made on Filipino children across the country indicate that the young emerging market accounts for spending power of more than P20 billion a year. Being constantly exposed to commercialism in all forms of media, kids today are slowly becoming big influences in making a purchase, if not outright decision-makers.

Since buying habits are being developed at an early age, now is the best time for parents to start teaching kids the value of saving.

Perhaps, one way to teach children how to handle money properly is by allowing them such experience guided by adult wisdom. Some parents offer to give their kids a minimal amount of money - in the form of allowances or monetary gifts. While doing so, parents are encouraged to guide their kids in deciding how to spend their cash, as well as motivate them to save.

Here are some creative ways on how to teach kids to save.

1. Give your children a regular allowance and agree on how much they are supposed to set aside for their savings.
2. Buy saving tools - like a piggy bank - in different colors, characters and shapes. You can also let them create their own piggy banks out of empty jars and tins.
3. Offer rewards for a reasonable target amount saved within a particular period of time like after one semester or one school year.
4. Create a colorful chart to record their savings. Post the chart on the refrigerator or any area where your kids usually hang out so they can regularly see how much their money is increasing.
5. If your child is saving for a particular item, post a photo of that item on the piggy bank, cupboard or bedroom door as a constant reminder of the reward they will receive once they have saved enough money to make the purchase.

Better yet, let your kids experience the fun of banking by introducing them to kiddie accounts that offer exciting perks and activities the young ones will surely appreciate.

Metrobank, the country's leading bank, makes saving even more exciting with the launch of the Fun Savers Club (FSC) Gift Check. A perfect gift alternative for special occasions, it comes in a candy-color design with a gift check holder that kids will love.

The FSC gift check is special because it can be used to open a new Fun Savers Club account conveniently. It can also be used to add funds to an existing Fun Savers account.

"The FSC gift check is an affordable and better alternative to usual presents such as toys and clothes," said Metrobank Corporate Planning Division head Bernardito M. Lapuz. "What's more, it teaches children the value of saving by making the habit more fun and exciting."

The FSC gift check is ideal for children below 18 years of age so they can easily open a Fun Savers Club account. Upon opening, they will receive a welcome kit and be entitled to discounts at selected establishments, among other perks.

The account requires only a minimum of P500 initial deposit and average daily balance of P4,000 to earn interest.

FSC gift checks can be purchased at all Metrobank branches with a minimum face value of P500.00. Metrobank depositors can have the purchase amount of the GCs debited from their account while non-Metrobank account holders need to present a valid ID and proof of residency (residence certificate or current billing statement) to make a purchase.

For more information, visit your nearest Metrobank branch or log on to www.metrobank.com.ph.

Fun Savers Club
I KNOW HOW TO MULTIPLY, DIVIDE, AND OPEN MY OWN BANK ACCOUNT.
ORANGE JUICE 4 SALE
Fun Savers Club

Teaching kids to save is like child's play.

All you need is a P500 minimum balance to open their Fun Savers account.
Or better yet, get your kids a Fun Savers Club Gift Check and with a valid I.D., they're on their way to banking fun. It's as easy as A, B, C!
Get them a Fun Savers Club Gift Check now! For more information, please call 898-8701 to 02 or visit www.metrobank.com.ph.

Over 600 domestic and international branches, offices and subsidiaries.
Head Office: Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City. www.metrobank.com.ph
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You're in good hands with
METROBANK

Sun Life Roadshow eyes bright future for Filipinos

TWO MONTHS AFTER ITS launch in April, Sun Life Financial Philippines' "111 Hot Enough Promo" continues to build both excitement and business volumes for the company that is now celebrating 111 years of continued operations in the country. Marketing efforts for the campaign recently took a new turn with the unveiling of a futuristic Sun Life booth at the Glorietta in time for the Midnight Madness Weekend Sale. Sun Life's blue colored booth endeavors to answer the question "Is your future hot enough?" in two ways.

First, a special software, originally used by the FBI and other foreign surveillance agencies, will give visitors a glimpse of how they will physically look like in the future based on their current lifestyles.

Second, another program that has been developed by Sun Life will likewise diagnose an individual's wealth potential based on his/her present saving habits. The company's expert financial advisers are also on hand to take turns in explaining the high-level benefits of financial planning to prospective clients. The booth likewise provides visitors the chance to win futuristic TorqBikes. The Glorietta stint wrapped up June 15th and goes on to other malls around the Metro. Next on the promotional trail will be provincial visits, giving the nation's larger mass a glimpse into the future. Below is where Sun Life's forward looking booth is bound next:

June 23 to 30-Cavite, Laguna, Caloocan, Baguio, Batangas, Bulacan and Tacloban.

American Express offers novel savings account

AMERICAN EXPRESS BANK Philippines recently launched an innovative savings account that allows peso depositors direct access to investment facilities and the potential to earn more returns on their investment. Leveraging on the strength and relationships of American Express, Peso Wealth Plus gives depositors the added option to invest in facilities that will be managed by an established fund manager with global expertise.

According to Stella A. Sampayan, head of American Express Bank's trust department, "This takes out the guesswork and inconveniences of managing investments, particularly for those who are not finely attuned to the capital market or do not have the time for it. But at the same time, they want investments to earn more than the returns offered by peso-denominated time deposits and even other fixed-income funds."

Launched this month, Peso Wealth Plus offers depositors greater ease in making investments. Instead of filling in voluminous forms each time for a new transaction, American Express asks the client to fill in the forms once. A letter instructing the bank to make succeeding investments and other transactions on behalf of the client will suffice, noted Sampayan.

Moreover, each Peso Wealth Plus depositor is assigned a relationship manager to look after his investments and attend to his needs. A minimum initial investment of P200,000 is required in addition to deposits, which together with the client's other funds with the bank, should add up to P1 million. Sampayan highlighted that the relationship managers are ready to go to their clients should the need arise and they are also readily accessible to customers by phone. Most other banks offer this kind of service only to select top clients. Said Sampayan, "We believe our clients are important so each time they have a query or concern, they can talk to someone live."

The Peso Wealth Plus investment facility is targeted at individuals with a three- to five-year horizon and who are seeking higher yields on their investment. She disclosed that as of April 28, the investment facility earned a one-year return of 20.15 percent, gross of fees and net of taxes. American Express charges a trust fee of up to a maximum of 2 percent. Depending on the amount of investment, the trust fee can go as low as 0.60 percent. Trust fees are computed monthly and are based on the Monthly Average Investment Balance.

American Express has a history of over 150 years in serving affluent individuals. The company has built its business on premium services for this market. American Express celebrates its 90th year in the Philippines this year.

My monthly saving experience

By April N. San Felipe

IT'S THE END OF THE MONTH AGAIN. I took out my coin bank from my drawer eager to count the 5- and 10-peso coins inside. It should have reached P400 this time. And it did! Not bad for a month's saving for an average employee. As I filled out the deposit slip, I thought of the coming month, another month of saving...this time I will aim for a higher amount.

I started saving when the 5- and 10-peso coins were circulated. At that time I kept all of it in empty film canisters. I opened a bank account where I could deposit my savings every week, which eventually became every month. I often wondered if there were also others who were saving the way I did. Actually, there were as I later on learned.

Helping kids become nation-builders

I work for The Real Bank, a fast growing thrift bank in the country that advocates the value of saving and thrift among the youth. The Real Bank gives colorful piggy banks to their kid depositors to put in their savings. Once these piggy banks are full, they are brought to the Real Bank branches and the money is deposited in their Real Bank account called Real Kiddie Savers' Club account.

This saving advocacy, called "Bata...Bata...Mag-impok at Magsinop" started July 2004 in partnership with the Department of Education. Savings and thriftiness are taught to grade school students of select public and private schools in NCR, Region III and Region IVA. These students are given their own coin banks to encourage them to save. The Real Bank believes that these values will help the youth become nation-builders.

Moving up to higher levels

After being recognized by three prestigious award giving bodies-Asian Banking Awards 2005, National Consumers Quality Awards 2005, and Global Excellence Awards 2005-the Real Bank was encouraged to teach more students the value of saving and thrift through its "Real Cash Tulong sa Kabataan". This is the bank's ATM account that is linked to the "Bata...Bata...Mag-impok at Magsinop" advocacy campaign where for every ATM account opened, the Real Bank donates an additional P1 to the advocacy fund in behalf of the depositor. By doing this, depositors become a partner in helping kids become nation-builders.

Being a role model

I opened a Real Cash ATM account as soon as we launched this new product believing that through this, these kids would soon become the country's best leaders. It also motivates me to continue saving knowing that the best way to teach these values to our youth is by being a good example to them. Thus, I myself strive to save.

As I fall in line to deposit my coins, three kids rushed from the door holding blue, pink, and green piggy banks full of coins. They ran towards the new accounts counter eager to count the coins inside. I smiled when I heard them say it was their savings. Now, who could say Filipinos don't learn?

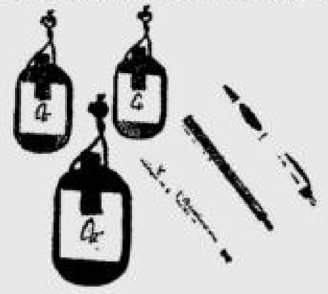
Get a gift as you pay your bills at East West Bank

EAST WEST BANK RECENTLY launched the "Billis Pay! Gift-Me-5 Promo" where bills payers will receive a gift on every fifth bills payment transaction they make.

Each bills payer will receive a "Billis Pay! Gift-Me-5 Promo" card, which will be used for monitoring the number of transactions. This should be validated by the teller by signing and stamping on the applicable number of transaction every time a bills payment transaction is made. The official receipt reference number, transaction number, amount paid, and date of payment must be indicated on the space provided.

For web payments, the bills payer needs to print and present the web transaction receipt to the attending teller together with the original statement of account for stamping and validation of bills paid.

To claim a gift, go to the teller, present your "Billis Pay Gift Me 5 Promo" card, and fill out the Clients Receiving Form.



Asiatrust Bank, Banco Rodriguez sign ATM co-branding agreement

BANCO RODRIGUEZ

ASIATRUST BANK (ATB) and Banco Rodriguez (BR) recently signed a memorandum of agreement for ATM co-branding. This special arrangement will allow clients of the latter to open ATM accounts and enjoy the convenience of 24-hour banking by riding on Asiatrust Bank's connection to the Megalink ATM network. Present during the MOA signing were (from left, seated) ATB sales force unit head Ma. Hazel de la Pena, BR chair Elizabeth Mendoza, BR president Maritess Pineda and BR assistant to the president Erminda Lozano. Standing is ATB sales officer Ramon Cocson.

'Flexi Savings' launched

Meanwhile, Asiatrust Bank recently introduced its newest deposit product dubbed "Flexi Savings". This combines the income benefits of a high-yielding time deposit with the flexibility of a checking account. To enjoy this, depositors may place a minimum of P50,000 in the Flexi Savings account for a period of one year. One may earn as high as seven percent interest per annum on the retained placement at the end of the term.

On the other hand, the account allows the depositor to withdraw funds once a month, though not more than 10 times for the entire term, without paying any pre-termination charges, and still enjoy three percent interest per annum. Flexi Savings comes with a passbook, a checking account and an ATM card. Withdrawal of funds can be done by issuing checks or via ATM through any Megalink, BancNet and Expressnet member banks.

For more information, call customer hotline 924-5777, e-mail customerhotline@asiatrust-bank.com, or visit any Asiatrust Bank branch.

PSBank adds more value to passbook savings accounts

PSBANK, THE COUNTRY'S SECOND largest savings bank, now has a passbook savings account that allows customers to avail themselves of one inter-regional transaction per day, free of charge at any branch. The account also comes with an ATM card for added convenience.

A transaction is considered inter-regional if a deposit or withdrawal is made from a Metro Manila branch to any provincial branch and vice versa, or from a provincial branch to another provincial branch located in another province or region.

The one free inter-regional transaction per day benefits customers who are charged by other banks a fee for every transaction made. This value-added service will greatly benefit customers whose occupation requires regular fieldwork in all parts of the country, or parents with children who study in another city or province and need to regularly send money for tuition or allowance.

Aside from the free inter-regional transactions, customers will also enjoy several other services that come with their ATM cards. Customers can experience day and night account access in any PSBank, Metrobank and BancNet ATMs nationwide. Transactions can also be made when you're out of the country through Mastercard Cirrus ATMs. You can also shop and pay in all Bancnet stores nationwide and Mastercard Maestro worldwide, or you may use your account to pay for your loans through automatic debit arrangement or through ATM. All these transactions are easily tracked through the passbook as customers have them updated in any PSBank branch nationwide.

Checking account service gets better

For people on the go, time is essential in their day-to-day activities. And since almost everyone is into multi-tasking nowadays, there's often not enough time to cover one's personal and professional affairs.

At PSBank, you can transact faster with its automated processes that leave you more time to do all the other things in your daily grind. One such innovation at PSBank is its better and hassle-free transactions for checking accounts.

PSBank has recently introduced a system that offers monitoring and reconciling of negotiated checks through automated signature verification with its new check imaging service. PSBank's Checks Documentation Review System (CDRS) allows the bank to verify a signature accurately, and quality control of checks can be done through a screen with the scanned image of the checks and scanned image of the client's signature. Technical defects are easily detected using this system.

Before CDRS, the bank uses the physical negotiated checks to manually verify the scanned signature of the client and check for technical defects. Manual sorting also took time, hence causing delay in the delivery of SOA (mail or pick-up) or error in the transmittal of checks.

With CDRS, the front-and-back images of the checks are already printed in the SOA. Essentially, customers benefit since the system is now significantly less prone to errors, hence releasing of image copies of checks are more accurate.

Customers can also request for extra copies online in any PSBank branch nationwide for added convenience. These are just some of the many innovations that PSBank is implementing to make banking more simple and convenient. More programs are underway as the company addresses its customers' concerns in upcoming initiatives.

With 150 branches and 147 ATMs nationwide, PSBank gives clients warm and efficient service for all cash and check deposits, withdrawals, encashment of checks as well as payments for all PSBank loans and credit cards.

East West Bank Q1 net income up 15.6% to P74M

EAST WEST BANKING CORP, fast growing as the preferred consumer bank in the country today, posted P74.4 million in net income after tax in the first quarter of 2006, a 188.46 percent increase from P25.7 million of the same period last year.

The remarkable rise in net profits was attributed to its higher income from trading, service charges and fee-based income while operating expenses narrowed significantly.

The bank's non-interest income reached P173 million by the end of March 2006, a 119-percent rise or P94 million more than the P79 million figure from the same period last year as the bank took advantage of the favorable market conditions and launched new consumer-centric products and services.

Net interest income for the period stood at P200 million as the interest income of P481 million outpaced interest expense of P281 million.

The bank continued to keep a lean but efficient staff, keeping manpower costs steady while expenses on offices and premises were reduced. For the first quarter, the bank's net income before tax approached P93 million, an increase of 228 percent or P65 million more than the March 2005's figure of P28 million.

As of the end of March, the bank's total resources stood at P25.7 billion, 3.6 percent or P760 million higher than the end-December 2005 level of P24.9 billion.

East West Bank offers clients various innovative consumer products such as car loan, housing loan, salary loan and credit card. The bank has made a dramatic shift to service consumers with this market now accounting for 48 percent of the bank's total loan portfolio from only 40 percent last year.

With the prospects for consumer lending remaining upbeat, the bank is confident of posting a higher net income this year from P202 billion in 2005.

Sunlife mutual funds sales up by 76%

BUCKING THE SHORT-TERM VOLATILITY that the market experienced last month, the Sun Life Prosperity Funds maintained a strong foothold in the mutual fund industry and collectively realized a 76 percent monthly gross sales increase in May 2006 versus what the funds posted in the previous year's comparable period.

Sun Life president and CEO Lorenzo Tan said, "The short-term volatility did not distract our clients from their long-term investment goal due to the efforts of the company and its licensed distributors to educate and provide professional advice to our investors. From the time they make an investment in any of our mutual funds, we exert every effort to help them identify the most suitable investment instrument that will suit their financial needs."

"Admittedly, there were a number of investors who still got somewhat nervous during the temporary dip in the price of their investments. However, many of them simply transferred and parked their monies temporarily in our Money Market Fund. This is a clear proof of our clients' confidence in Sun Life Financial when it comes to managing their hard-earned money," says Tan.

He believes the trust and confidence given by investors are rooted on the credibility of the people managing the company's mutual funds. "We have a team of financial services advisors and fund managers who have trained hard and well in helping our existing and prospective investors to effectively manage their funds for the future," he adds.

Sun Life president and CEO Lorenzo Tan also attributes this impressive achievement to the consistent high yield performance of the funds for the past five years since the launch of the Prosperity Funds, and the fact that these products are consistently being pushed by the company's competent agency force which has grown stronger and more vigilant to the needs of the times.

In terms of year-to-date yield, the company's peso-denominated Prosperity Funds managed to surpass benchmarks. Its Balanced and Philippine Equity Funds both outperformed the Phisix as they generated an actual year-to-date yield of 13.4 percent and 15.2 percent net, respectively, as of May 2006.

Its fixed-income instruments, such as the Sun Life Prosperity Money Market, GS and Bond Funds likewise surpassed their respective benchmarks despite the volatility in the market, in terms of year-to-date actual returns. Its Money Market Fund generated a net return of 1.8 percent; while its GS and Bond Funds yielded 2.9 percent and 3.8 percent net, respectively as of May 2006.

"Sun Life's asset management arm is set to retain its leading stance in the market and continue posting robust growth," Tan said. He cited particularly the company's goal to grow its wealth management arm's assets under management to P50 Billion in the next five years. The company is also intending to tap the broad C and OFW markets to further increase sales.

Sun Life Financial - Philippines is a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies, a leading international financial services organization providing a diverse range of wealth accumulation and protection products and services to individual and corporate customers. Chartered in 1865, Sun Life Financial and its partners today have operations in key markets worldwide including Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, India, China and Bermuda.

‘BPI Direct Savings Bank, BPInoy Remittance makes us proud to BPInoy’

THE BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE Islands launched the BPI Direct Savings Bank and BPInoy Remittance, along with its “BPInoy!” campaign, on June 23 at the Vigan Terrace, Club 1851, BPI Head Office, Makati City.

Hosted by prominent TV personality Cito Beltran, the launch carried a purely Pinoy theme, streamlining with BPI’s “BPInoy!” campaign. Secretary of Finance Margarito Teves and Executive Director of the Office of the Undersecretary of Migrant Workers Affair Mariano A. Dumia were guests of honor at the event.

Explaining the idea behind the BPInoy campaign, BPI senior vice president Ma. Lourdes A. Claravall said, “In essence, BPInoy is bringing BPI to every Pinoy working or living abroad. The BPInoy campaign also launches BPI Direct Savings Bank as the Bangko ng Expat Pinoy and BPInoy Remittance as BPI’s money remittance service to Expat Pinoys worldwide.

In ending her speech, Claravall unveiled the TVC for the BPInoy! campaign, which is Erik’s television commercial debut.

Erik is the son of an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) or, as BPI prefers to call, an Expat Pinoy. His father, Renato Santos, has been working as an engineer in the Middle East for most of Erik’s 23 years, sacrificing not being with his family to be able to provide for them. Though miles away, his father was a great inspiration when he joined a singing contest where he emerged the champion.

Apart from starring in the TVC, Erik also joins other Expat Pinoy children in singing the anthem for the TV spot. The song is titled “Iuwi Mo ang Pangarap,” and expresses what every child of an Expat Pinoy feels. The words of the song ring true because it speaks of these children’s collective wish-to have their parents come home. These children truly understand the plight of their parents, and they are all grateful for the sacrifices their parents have endured for them.

BPI Direct president Raul D. Dimayuga, in his briefing, said “BPI Direct Savings Bank and BPInoy Remittance are part of a larger BPI initiative called Expat Pinoy Program, which addresses the fundamental needs of Filipinos working abroad.” He explains, “BPI Direct Savings Bank is a virtual bank, a click-and-portal bank that will service its clients through phone and Internet connections. BPInoy Remittance, on the other hand, is an online, real-time remittance service that gives free text alert to both remitter and beneficiary that money has been credited to the BPI account and can already be withdrawn in any of the over 1,300 Express Teller ATMs of BPI.” BPInoy Remittance can be accessed through BPI Remittance Centers and local company remittance partners all over the world.

BPI Direct’s introduction comes with a BPInoy Pabaon Package for outbound Expat Pinoys, “The Pabaon includes a BPInoy Savings Account that features ATM and remittance services worldwide; BPI Credit Card, which being a MasterCard, is acceptable anywhere in the world; and a 24/7 BPInoy Counselling Service to assist the expatriate workers in managing their finances.”

BPI president Aurelio R. Montinola III, in closing, imparted an inspiring message, “Through BPI Direct Savings and BPInoy Remittance under the Expat Pinoy program, we hope to be able to give back to our kababayans by helping them better manage the hard-earned fruits of their labor and through the new BPInoy! campaign, we hope to further prove that Filipinos are truly capable of taking on the world and BPI will be there, wherever they are.”

The program also showcased performances from BPI Expat Pinoy endorser and the country’s Prince of Pop Erik Santos, and the internationally acclaimed and award-winning Philippine Children’s Choir of Mandaluyong.

BPI recently launched the BPI Direct Savings Bank and BPInoy Remittance, along with its ‘BPInoy!’ campaign. The launch was led by (from left) BPI SVP Ma. Lourdes A. Claravall, BPI SVP Teresita B. Tan, Zen Biado from Merk Media and BPI VP Raul D. Dimayuga (BPI Direct president and ‘Expat Pinoy’ segment head).

Special guests during the event were (from left) the country’s ’Prince of Pop’ Erik Santos, Angelo Jimenez of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), Executive Director Mariano A. Dumia of Office of the Usec for Migrant Workers Affairs, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Norma Hernandez and Rosalinda Nieva (BSP) with BPI president Aurelio Montinola III. Hosted by prominent TV personality Cito Beltran, the program also showcased the internationally acclaimed and award-winning Philippine Children’s Choir of Mandaluyong.

Berkley gets upgrade from Philratings

ON ITS ITS 5TH YEAR OF BEING evaluated, Berkley International Plans has obtained a corporate credit rating upgrade from PRS A plus to PRS Aa minus (double A minus) from the Philippine Rating Services Corporation (PhilRatings). Berkley Plans continues to be the first and only pre-need firm, thus far, to have obtained a corporate credit rating from Philratings. It first submitted its financial books for examination to the rating company in 2001.

Berkley Plans’ PRS Aa minus (corp.) rating is defined as “having a strong capacity to meet its financial commitments” as compared with other Philippine corporations.

In upgrading the rating, PhilRatings cited the strong performance of Berkley’s trust fund investments, with about 95 percent of its trust fund assets placed in government securities. As of end-December 2005, investment in trust funds was at about P3.2 billion, compared to the amount of maturing plans of P9.5 million by 2007. From 2007 - 2009, the P3.2 billion in trust fund investment provides a 1.39x cover of all maturing plans.

PhilRatings likewise considered Berkley Plans’ significant sales and earnings growth of 23 percent amidst the backdrop of negative industry performance and public perception. Berkley and Family First are fully-owned subsidiaries of W.R. Berkley Corporation of USA which is among the Fortune 500 and whose assets, by end of 2005, totaled US13.9 Billion.

DIEU AWARDEES 2005 TOP SALES PERFORMERS OF PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

The De Jesus branch of Philippine Axa’s Metro Manila region 2 received five major awards in the recent DIEU Awards Night held at the Hotel Intercontinental-Manila. The DIEU Award is AXA’s annual tradition of paying tribute and giving recognition to its deserving financial advisors and managers for their sales performance in 2005. Avelina de Jesus (2nd row, seated 4th from left), branch regional director, was given the Titan Award for branch builder specialist of the year and the Vesta Award for rookie-manager of managers of the year. The three other awardees were financial advisor Roberto Rivero, rookie advisor of the year; sales manager Poly Francia, Demeter awardee, and sales manager Rena Navales, Hermes awardee. Cory Hipolito, regional manager of Metro Manila 2, congratulated the group for their significant contribution to the company’s impressive 15% growth in 2005. Also shown are invited sales force and their guests.

First Life publishes winning photos of ‘Life Values 1st’ photo contest

FIRST LIFE’S PHOTOCONTEST “Life Values 1st” concludes with a release of the best entries in a full page print ad in the December issue of Good Housekeeping magazine by Summit Publications. In its 3rd year, First Life’s contest called for photos that depict children and how they brighten up one’s day. The challenge is to convey the value of planning for the children’s future. With the conviction that life insurance is the best depiction of love for children, First Life aims to reflect the impact and inspiration of how Filipinos selflessly take care of their dear ones.

The top prize was won by Jose Antonio Diaz with a photo of his son flaunting a milk mustache with the title ‘Got Milk.’ Diaz took home P10,000 in cash and a P100,000 personal accident insurance. The consolation prize winners were Salome Alonte, Carlo Cruz, Jennylyn Asuncion, Rachelle Tiffany Diaz and Laura David who received P3,000 in cash and a P25,000 personal accident insurance each.

The “Life Values 1st” photo contest is the company’s unique way of presenting a richer and more colorful existence by pounding on the importance of life insurance through the vivid images of tradition and spirit that are characteristic of Filipinos. First Life is a leading provider of proudly Filipino world-class life insurance products that cater to the changing needs of families.

1ST LIFE
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Photo shows First Life executives with the Life Values 1st Photocontest winners. First Life president and CEO, Peter Coyiuto (back, far left), executive vice president and actuary Jaime Santiago (back, 2nd from right) and individual insurance marketing department senior assistant vice president Agerico Melgar (back, far right) with photocontest winners and representatives (front from left), Joy Cruz (for Carlo Cruz), Salome Alonte, Jennylyn Asuncion, Ramon Sampang (for Laura David).

ASIAN HOSPITAL APPOINTS METROBANK AS TRUSTEE

Metrobank, the country’s leading bank in resources, was recently designated as trustee of Asian Hospital and Medical Center’s (AHMC) Employees Retirement Fund. Asian Hospital and Medical Center is the first major private hospital with tertiary care facilities in Southern Luzon. Hand in hand with Bangkok-based Bumrungrad Int’l - a healthcare facility leader in the Pacific region - AHMC offers optimum medical technology and equipment, uniquely planned facilities, dedicated staff and doctors who work in synergy to provide efficient healthcare services to their patients. Present during the contract signing were (from left) Metrobank Filinvest Corporate City branch head Anne Marie Cochico; Metrobank Trust Banking Group vice president Josephine G. Cervero and deputy group head Rafael G. Ayuste, Jr.; Metrobank area supervisor Metro Manila XIII Helen U. Fargas; AHMC president and chief executive officer Pamela AM Robinson, and chief financial officer Robert K. Suarez; Metrobank Trust Banking business development manager Pollyana B. Diokno and portfolio officer Ma. Estrella F. Ramos. The Metrobank Trust Banking Group offers a wide range of funds and asset management products and services catering to corporate and high net worth individuals. Clients are assured of professional and expert fund management service with its dynamic team of fund managers, risk, credit, and compliance officers.

UBP nets P2.755B in another record year

UNIONBANK OF THE PHILIPPINES reported a net profit of P2.755 billion in 2005. The figure surpassed market expectations and is 21 percent higher than the P2.281 billion posted in 2004.

At the recent stockholders’ meeting in Makati Shangri-La, UBP chair and CEO Justo Ortiz said the bank was “able to maximize investment yields, keep the growth going in deposits as well as manage costs” last year.

He reported that UBP remains one of the most profitable in the industry with a return on shareholders’ equity (ROE) of 15.88 percent from 14.06 percent in 2004, and a return on average assets (ROA) of 2.6 percent from 2.55 percent in 2004. “Our earnings per share increased to P5 from P4.14 the previous year. In January this year, our Board of Directors granted a cash dividend of P1.60 per share, which is equivalent to a payout rate of 32.0 percent of net profit, up from 27.8 percent in 2004,” he noted.

The bank’s capital markets business saw excellent results with revenue growth of 40 percent. The consumer finance business continues to grow, with profit growth of the credit card business accelerating to 35 percent in 2005 from 17 percent in 2004, and auto finance turning in a profit growth of 17 percent. Total deposits increased 11 percent to P60 billion. Operating expense growth was 17 percent. Total revenue growth was 22 percent. The balance sheet stood at P107 billion in total resources by year-end.

In terms of market position, among private domestic universal banks, UnionBank is the 4th largest in net profit in 2005; 1st in ROE; 1st in ROA; 1st in productivity measured by cost-to-income ratio; and 1st in soundness measured by risk-adjusted capital adequacy ratio, with 46 percent.

COCOPLANS AWARDS 2005 TOP SELLERS

Cocoplans, two-time awardee for Most Outstanding Pre-Need Plans Provider, awarded its top sellers for 2005 during the 12th Annual Performance Excellence (Apex) Awards at the Manila Peninsula Hotel. Shown in photo are Cocoplans officers (top row from left) director Isabelo P. Africa, president Caesar T. Michelena and chair lawyer Alfredo C. Tumacder Jr. joined by (bottom row from left to right) AVP East Visayas operations Rhommel G. Hao Cuenco who received the award for Virginia S. Davis as Top Business Development Manager Personal Seller, Egbert J. Abogado who received the Award for Emma D. Alcantara as Mega Producer, Ernesto K. Pinas as Top Senior Business Development Manager Personal Seller, Pilita S. Renacido as Top Business Partner Corporate Seller, Josan B. Lim as Business Partner of the Year, and Myrna L. Lalucis representing Lipa Business Center as Top Business Center.

Studio unit in The Columns Ayala Avenue at stake in BPI's *Save Up, Move Up promo*

IMAGINE HAVING YOUR OWN HIDEAWAY IN the heart of Makati. Envision yourself waking up to be greeted by an impressive view of the city and a magnificent view of distant mountains. Imagine afternoons made more beautiful by the glorious sunset of Manila Bay. Imagine all these, a stone's throw away from the office, the shopping malls and your favorite bars and restaurants.

Imagine no more. This place could actually be yours if you join BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank's Save Up, Move Up promo. Get a chance to own a posh studio unit at The Columns Ayala Avenue this October. Get a chance to move up in life when you save with BPI.

The promo is open to all BPI peso and foreign currency individual account holders who open or maintain BPI Savings, Checking or Time Deposit Accounts. Every P5,000 deposit in savings or checking or P25,000 in a time deposit entitles a depositor to get one (1) electronic raffle coupon. The more you save, the more chances of winning.

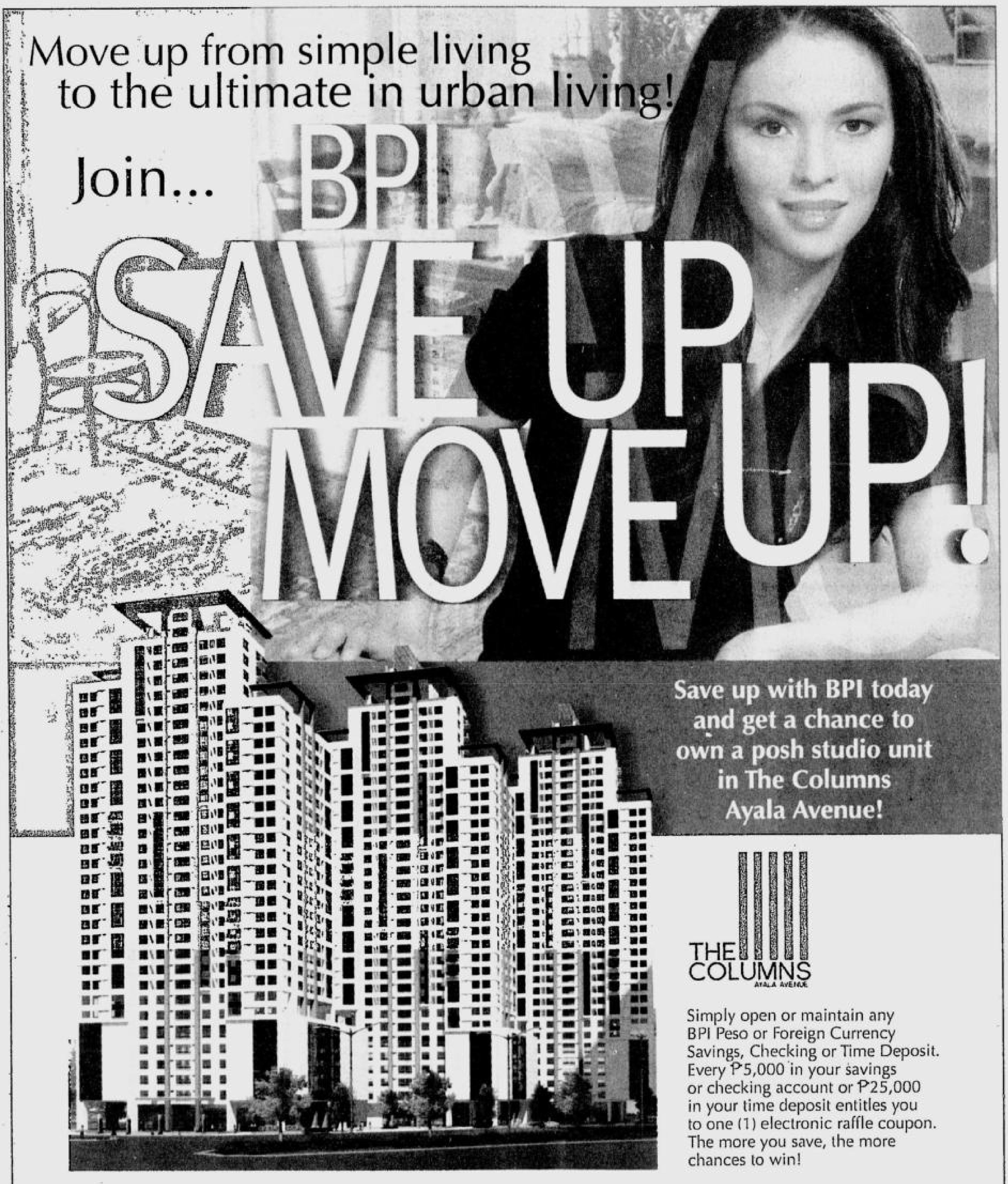
In its first draw last May, BPI Save Up, Move Up doubled the deposit balance of winners, Rosalinda and Jonathan Aleta of BPI Cabanatuan branch. With an additional P500,000 in their BPI account, the possibilities are endless for the Aletas.

This July, BPI will be giving away the second prize-- a stylish Volvo V50 station wagon to yet another lucky depositor. With the Volvo V50, family trips will never be the same again.

And the best is yet to come. The grand prize, a studio unit at The Columns Ayala Avenue is up for grabs this October. A home in The Columns Ayala Avenue is a prize everyone will surely appreciate. It's the perfect address for young urban professionals who want to start out on their own or for newlyweds who wish to start their new life together in style. It can also be the best gift a parent can give his child. Strategically located at the corner of Ayala and Buendia Avenues, The Columns Ayala Avenue is in close proximity to the Makati business district, shopping malls and other leisure destinations, making it an ideal choice, not only as a new home, but an investment as well.

But that's not all. On top of BPI Save Up, Move Up's exciting raffle, a depositor is also entitled to get a BPI Electronic Gift Card worth P1,000 for every P300,000 new or additional deposit in savings or checking. The gift card comes in the form of a BPI Express Cash Card which can be used for shopping in 45,000 Mastercard Electronic establishments nationwide.

No other bank can give you a promo as exciting as this one. So start saving with BPI today. Who knows, you could be in for a famous lifestyle upgrade! Visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch today and move up with BPI! For more details, call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com


Move up from simple living
to the ultimate in urban living!
Join...
BPI
SAVE UP
MOVE UP!
Save up with BPI today and get a chance to own a posh studio unit in The Columns Ayala Avenue!
THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

Simply open or maintain any BPI Peso or Foreign Currency Savings, Checking or Time Deposit. Every ₱5,000 in your savings or checking account or ₱25,000 in your time deposit entitles you to one (1) electronic raffle coupon. The more you save, the more chances to win!

Participating products:

EXPRESS TELLER SAVINGS
The fully-loaded ATM account that lets you go cashless shopping, pay your bills, transfer funds and more. Enjoy banking convenience through the ATM, the Internet, landline or mobile phone.

JUMPSTART SAVINGS
The savings account specially designed for teens and pre-teens to teach them the basics of money management.

MAXI-ONE
Enjoy interest on all your funds with the superior all-in-one product that combines the features of a savings and a checking account.

MULTI-EARNER
Earn higher interest than regular savings, plus, bonus interest when you don't withdraw in a month.

PLATINUM SAVINGS
The superior, high earning savings account and insurance package in one.

Regular Passbook Savings, Platinum For Kids Multi-Earner Plus, Express Teller Checking, Regular Checking, BPI Direct Savings, BPI Direct Checking, Express Dollar Savings, US Dollar Passbook Savings, Third Currency Passbook Savings, Peso Time Deposits and Foreign Currency Time Deposits.

Promo period: March 1 to September 30, 2006. See flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2006.

PLUS! Get a free BPI Electronic Gift Card worth ₱1,000 for every ₱300,000 additional or new deposit in savings or checking account.

Promo period: March 1 to September 30, 2006. See mailers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2006.

So save up with BPI and live it up!
Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center now.
Call **89-100** or log on to **www.bpiexpressonline.com**

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

BPI DIRECT
Savings Bank

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor ₱250,000.00

Money-saving tips from BPI

FOR MOST PEOPLE, SAVING MONEY is a chore, since it requires a certain amount of discipline. Many of us pull out money from out wallets like it will never run out and with no thought about our financial future. But the truth is, whether you are saving for a small purchase, a new car or a piece of property, you will never reach your goals unless you make saving a priority.

BPI gives you these valuable tips on how to get a better handle on your spending and how you can save money easily:

- Pack your lunch. You can save up to as much as P150 a day by simply packing your lunch. That's P750 saved in a week and P3,000 in a month.

- Brew your own coffee at home. Cut down on luxuries like designer coffee, which can cost as much as P100 a cup. Saved money can go directly to your savings account.

- Give yourself a manicure, pedicure or a foot spa instead of going to the spa each time.

- When going shopping, always set out with a predetermined spending limit and avoid impulse purchases.

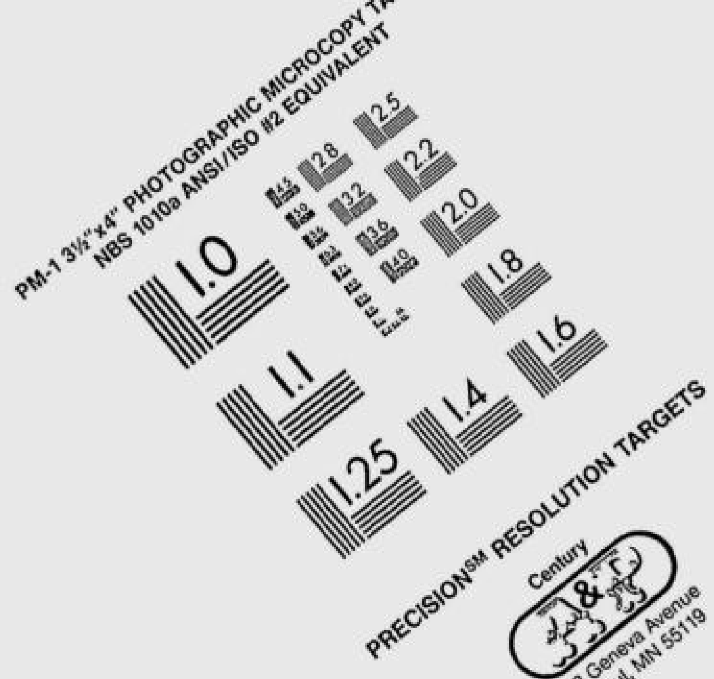
- Cut down on designer wear. To save money, you can consider trying out less expensive yet stylish brands for a change. You can also try going to bazaars for affordable imported brands.

- Buy during the "sale" season. You can get the better deals during mall-wide sales. All you need is a little more patience and lots of energy to rummage from store to store.

- Pay yourself first. Every payday, make sure that you "pay" yourself by allotting a certain amount of money to your savings account. If done regularly, you'll be amazed at how much money you have actually accumulated in a year.

- Saved money should only be used as an emergency fund and not for frivolous purchases.

So set your mind on saving. Remember, the earlier you start saving, the more money you'll have for your nest egg. And if you're looking for a long-term partner in savings, consider banking with BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank.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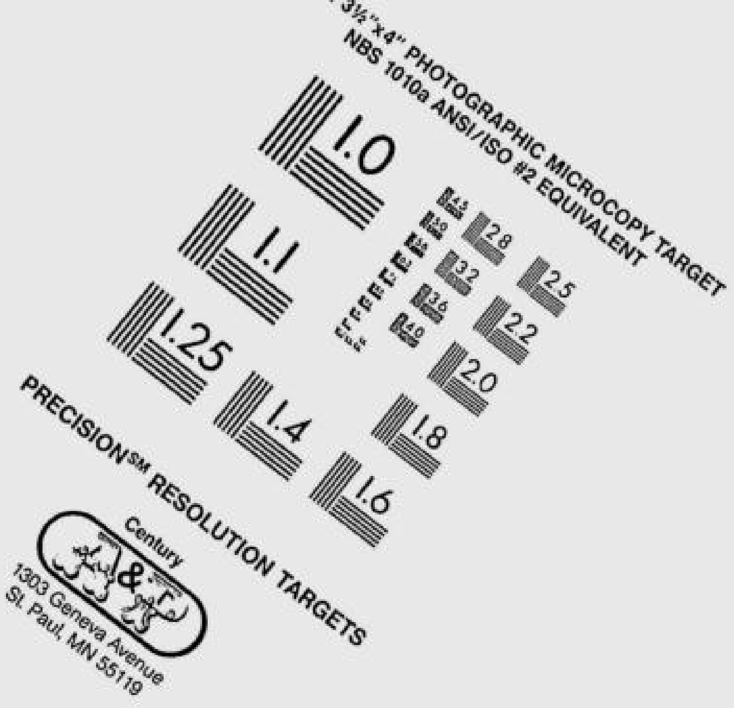
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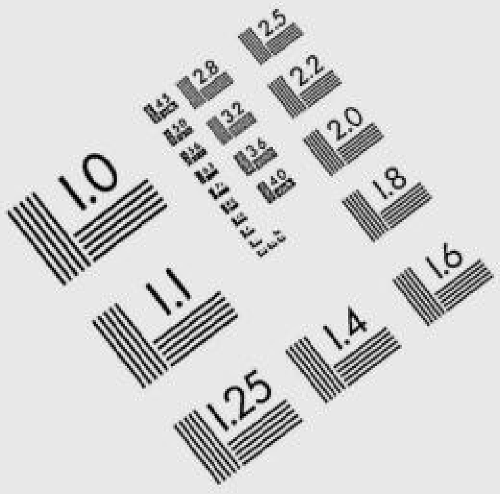
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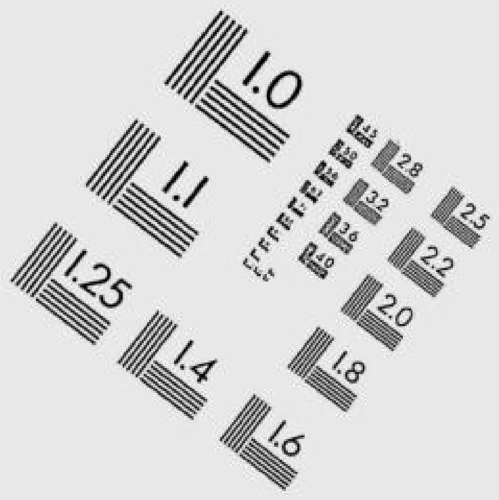
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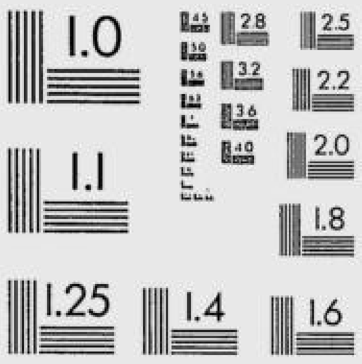
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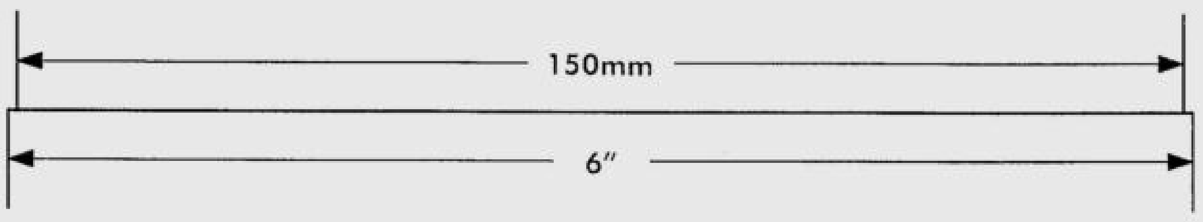

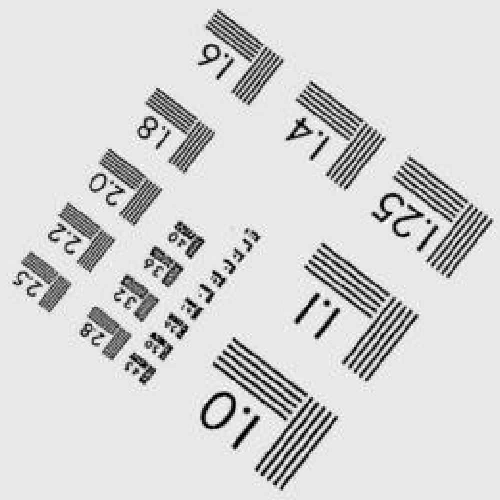
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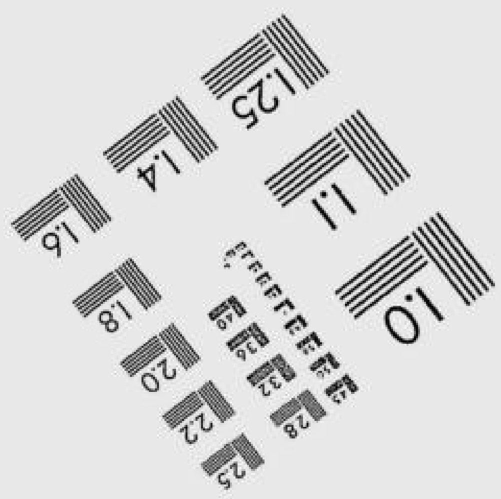
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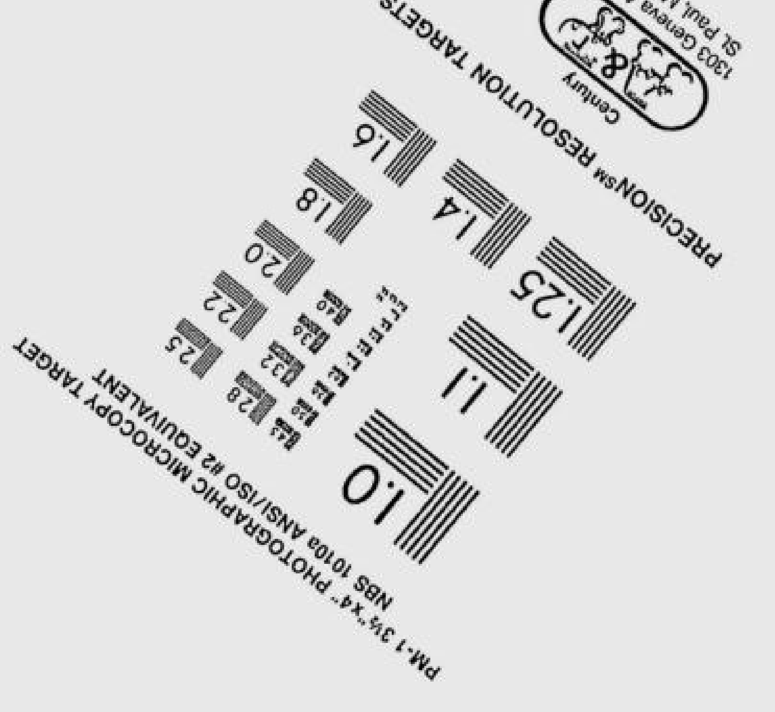
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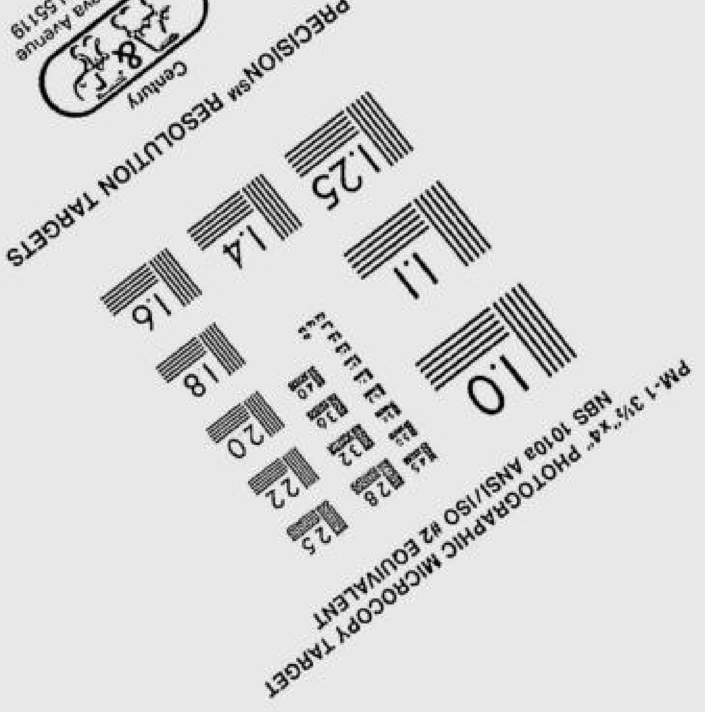
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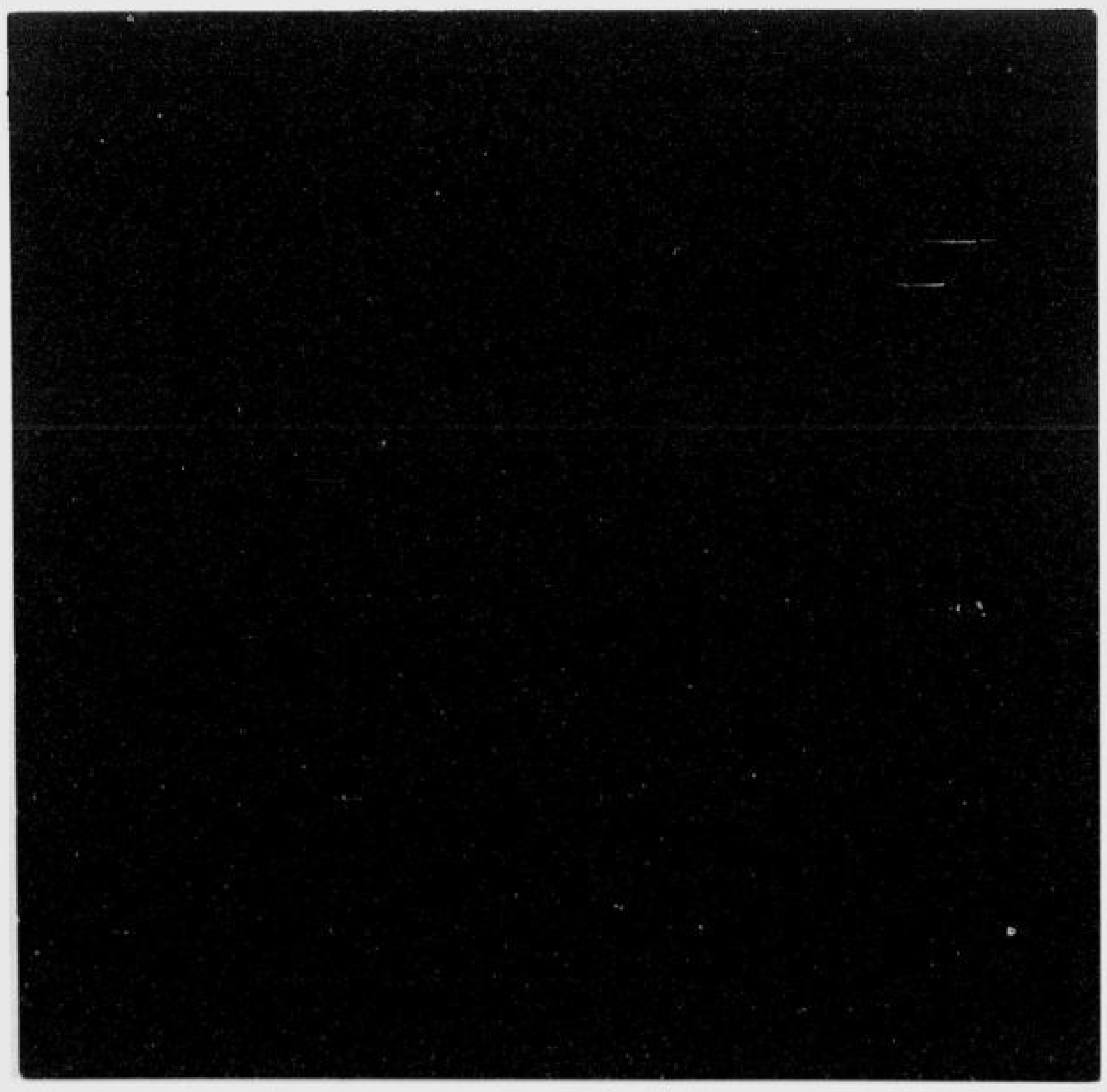

PHILIPPINE
DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

JUNE
16 THRU 30
2006

REEL 383

END

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

MARCH
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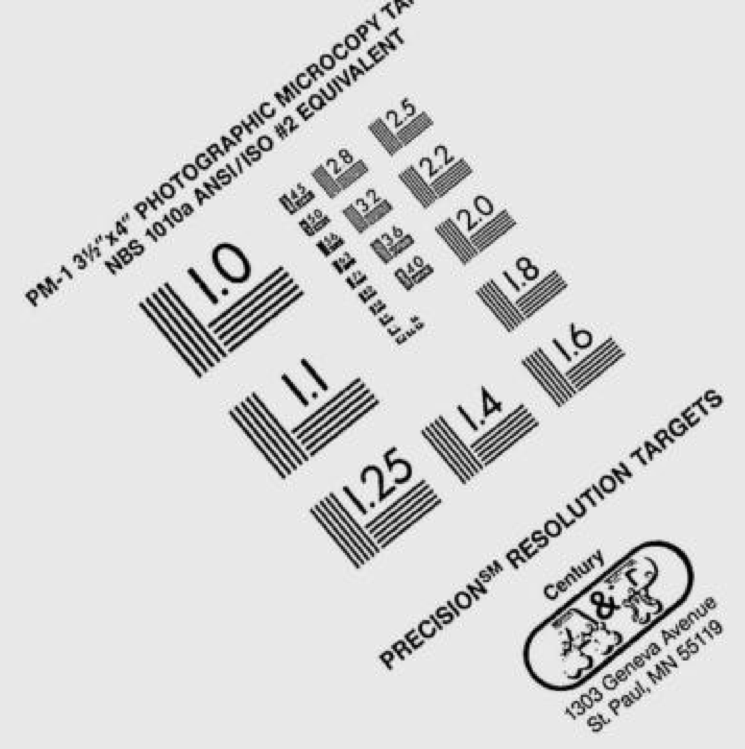
2006

REEL 376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PRECISION℠ RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

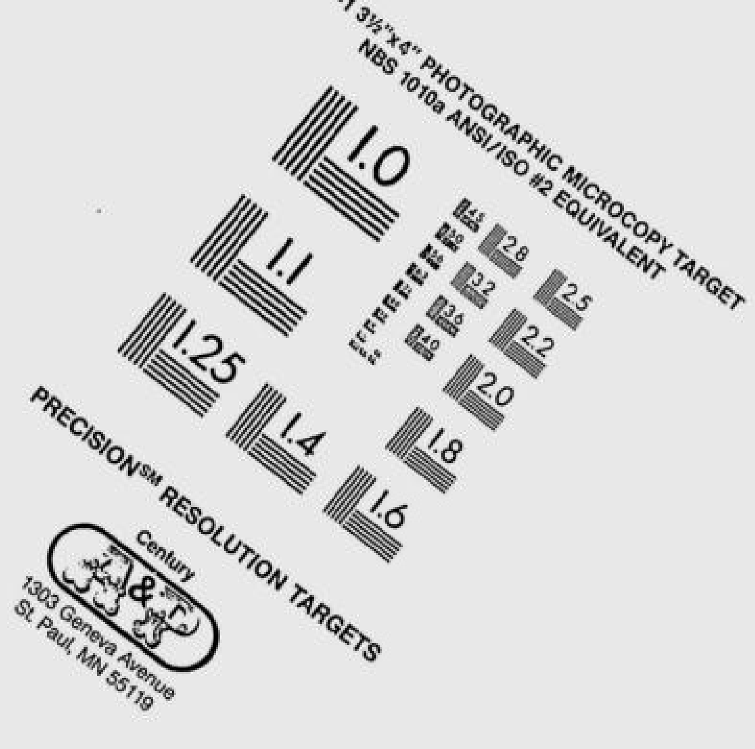
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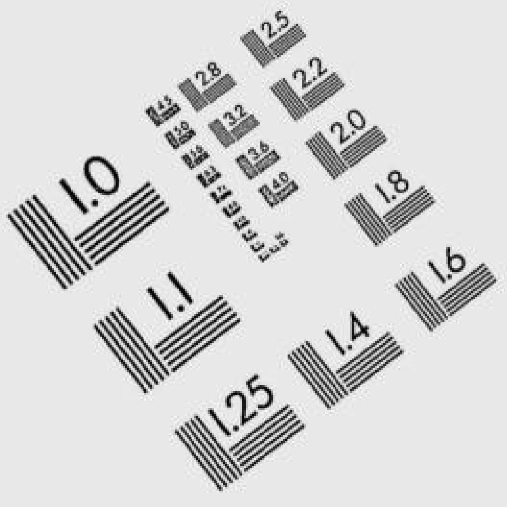
IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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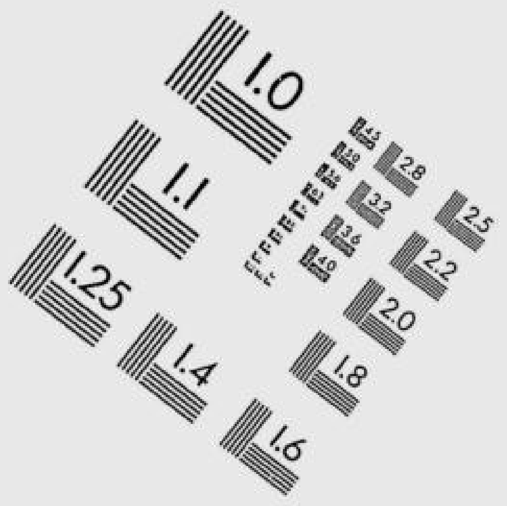
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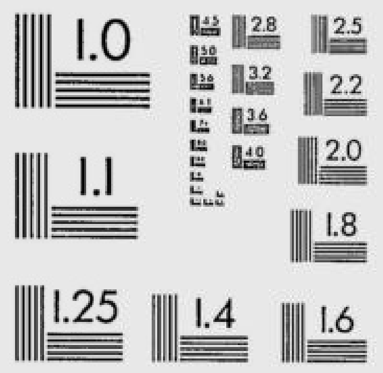
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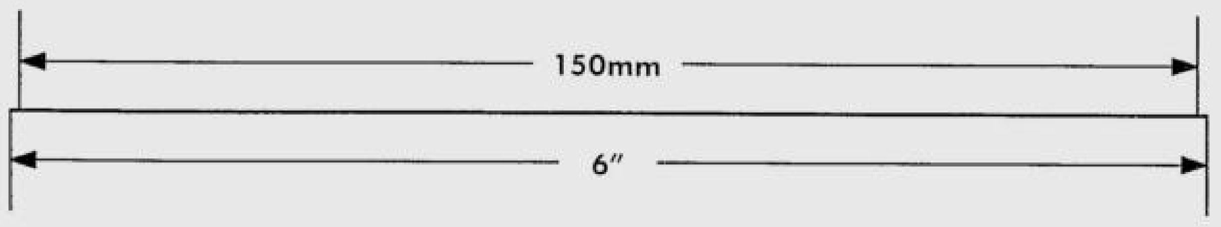

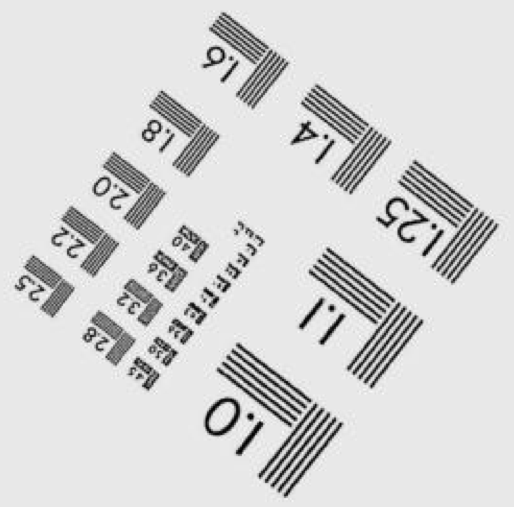
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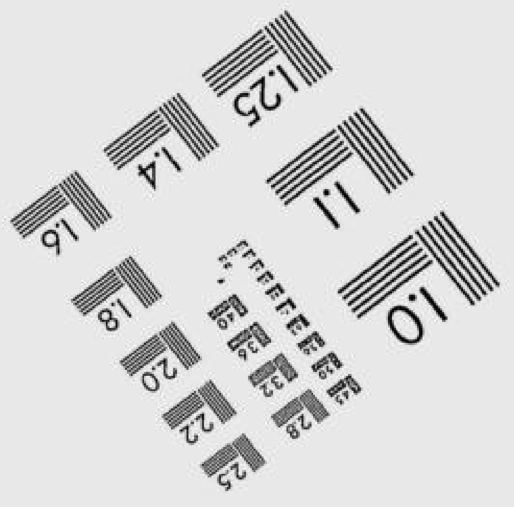
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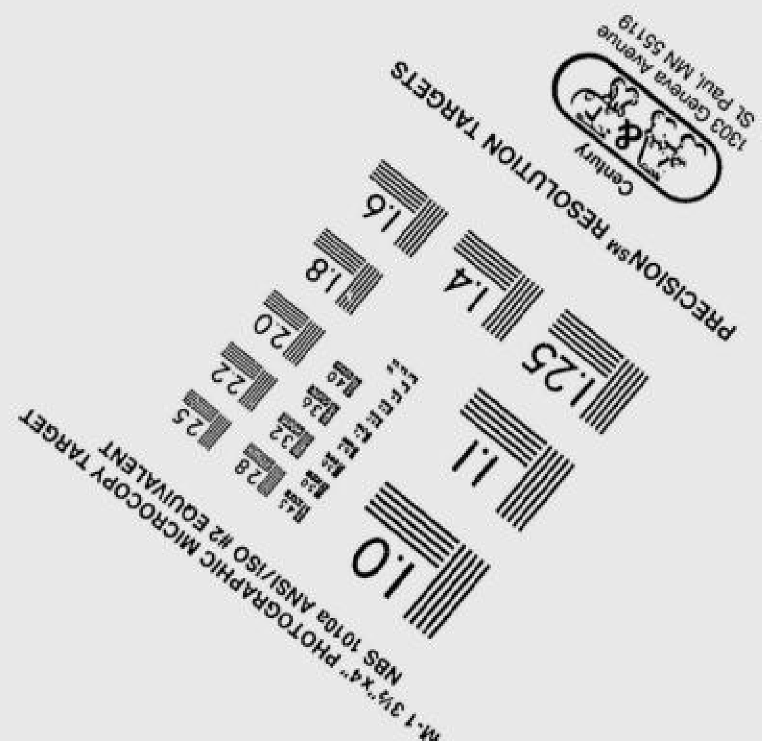
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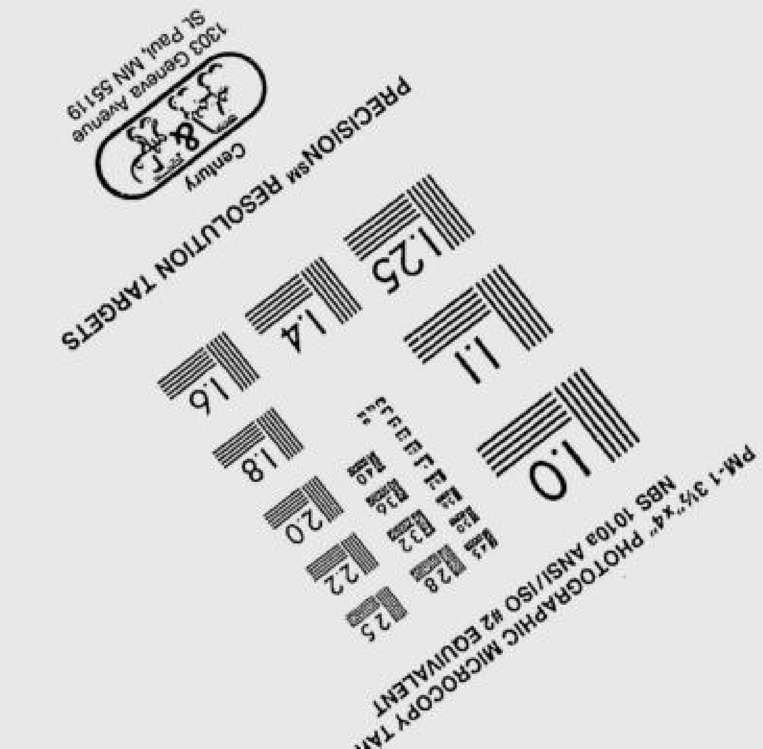
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